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Volume 2, No. 182 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

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PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Above: First Lt. Glen Morales, an air defense artillery officer, left, and Major Jeff McClane, a trainer with the Indiana National Guard, search the slopes for targets during the first of two firefights Thursday morning near Kandagal, Afghanistan. Left: Afghan National Army fighters take position during an ambush that followed the firefight in the contested Kunar Province.

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States

Geoghan killing: The convicted murderer charged with killing former priest and pedophile John J. Geoghan in his prison cell wants statements he made to investigators thrown out, claiming he was beaten and denied medical treatment before making them.

Joseph L. Druce made his request in an affidavit filed last month in Worcester (Mass.) Superior Court, where he is awaiting trial on a first-degree murder charge in Geoghan's death.

Druce's court-appointed lawyer, John H. LaChance, recently informed prosecutors that he intends to use an insanity defense.

Florida voter registration: The Florida Democratic Party accused Secretary of State Glenda Hood of violating federal law when she told elections supervisors across the state that they should reject incomplete voter-registration forms.

Hood's office told counties they should disqualify voters who failed to check a box confirming they're U.S. citizens, even if they signed an oath on the same form swearing they are. She and other state officials have maintained that state and federal laws require the box to be checked.

In a federal lawsuit filed Thursday in Tallahassee, Democratic officials urged a judge to order Hood to reverse those instructions to the state's 67 counties.

Florida voting sites: The NAACP sued the elections supervisor of Volusia County, Fla., alleging the county disenfranchises blacks by having only one early voting site in an area where fewer minorities live.

The NAACP wants elections chief Deanie Lowe to open another early voting site by Oct. 18 in the eastern part of the county, where more blacks live, according to the federal voting rights lawsuit filed Thursday. The county's only site is in the administrative seat of DeLand, about 20 miles southwest of Daytona Beach.

Michael Jackson case: Prosecutor Tom Sneddon and his entire office should be removed from the Michael Jackson molestation case because he "is motivated by personal animosity" toward the singer, according to newly released court papers.

Filed by Jackson's lawyers, the motion claims Sneddon's handling of the investigation has revealed a conflict of interest that prevents the singer from obtaining a fair trial. It alleges Sneddon has a vendetta against Jackson dating to a 1993 molestation investigation that did not result in charges being filed.

Safe porn sex: Frustrated by the porn industry's continuing unsafe sex practices, Los Angeles County health officials have sent 400 letters to producers and directors urging condom use during sex scenes.

The letters, which began arriving this week, also advise the industry to vaccinate performers for hepatitis A and B.

"We think this is a matter of worker protection," said Dr. Jonathan Fielding, director of the county's Department of Health Services.

Mars rovers: NASA's Mars rovers don't seem to be wearing out, so mission planners have begun to think more boldly — including a plan to let one climb up a steep slope from a crater it has been exploring to set out across a plain.

The rovers have lasted longer than expected, but as long as we have them we're going to keep them busy," project manager Jim Erickson said Thursday in a conference call with reporters.

GOP convention protesters: A civil liberties group Thursday filed two federal law-



Hurricane aftermath: After being knocked out by Hurricane Ivan, the Interstate 10 west-bound bridge over Escambia Bay in Pensacola, Fla., left, reopened Tuesday to serve both westbound and eastbound traffic until the eastbound bridge reopens. The White House announced Thursday that the federal government will cover a bigger share of the bill for hurricane preparation, cleanup and damage repair incurred by Florida. President Bush has ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency to pay for 90 percent of costs that local agencies rack up because of the four hurricanes that hit the state in August and September. FEMA previously paid 75 percent of costs not covered by insurance.

suits alleging that hundreds of people were illegally arrested during the Republican National Convention in New York.

The lawsuits accuse police of illegal mass arrests, illegally lengthy and unexplained detentions under filthy conditions, and illegal fingerprinting of people charged with minor offenses.

More than 1,800 people were arrested during the four-day GOP convention at Madison Square Garden in August.

One woman said she was just trying to cross the street when she was rounded up in a mass arrest, and went into convulsions. She was hospitalized, but said she had no health insurance to cover bills totaling \$3,000.

Anthrax probe: A federal judge scolded the Justice Department on Thursday for failing to stop leaks describing former Army scientist Steven Hatfill as a "person of interest" in the investigation of the anthrax attacks.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton also expressed doubt that the FBI is close to identifying the person behind the mailings that killed five people and sickened 17 others in the fall of 2001.

"It doesn't seem to me there's a significant likelihood of anything in the near future that's going to change the status quo," said Walton, who is presiding over a civil suit filed by Hatfill that accuses the Justice Department of defaming him and violating his privacy.

NYC exotic pets: A man who pleaded guilty to keeping an alligator and a tiger in his Harlem, N.Y., apartment while children lived there was sentenced Thursday to five months in jail.

Antoine Yates, who pleaded guilty in July to reckless endangerment, told the judge he never intended to put anyone at risk and that the children were never in danger.

Judge Budd Goodman said he was disturbed by a presentencing report that de-

scribed Yates, 36, as delusional about having a special gift for handling animals.

World

Philippines peace monitors: The bulk of a Malaysian-led team to monitor a truce between Muslim separatist guerrillas and the government arrives Saturday in what officials call a major breakthrough in the push for peace in the southern Philippines.

The 43-strong team will join an advance group of nine Malaysian military and police officers who have been laying the groundwork for overseeing the cease-fire while talks aim to end a bloody insurgency by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the government's chief negotiator said in a statement.

Hong Kong SARS: Government leader Tung Chee-wei on Friday named a hospital head as Hong Kong's new health chief, replacing the man who stepped down to accept responsibilities for a botched response to the SARS crisis.

Tung announced that Yock Chow, who has been in charge of the Queen Mary Hospital, would succeed Dr. Yeoh Eng-kiong.

Yeoh came under sharp criticism for Hong Kong's response to severe acute respiratory syndrome, which infected 1,755 people in Hong Kong and killed 299.

Sudan peace talks: Peace talks to end the 21-year civil war in southern Sudan have resumed, with a separate conflict in the nearby Darfur region casting a shadow over what mediators hope will be a sprit to a final peace agreement.

The conflict between the Sudan People's Liberation Army and the northern government over control of southern Sudan has been distinct from the current clashes in Darfur — which the U.S. government has called genocide. But southern rebel leader John Garang said a peace agreement to end the war in the south would serve as a model for solving Darfur's conflict.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Terrorists behead British hostage in Iraq

U.S. airstrike hits suspected terror meeting in Fallujah

BY ALEXANDRA ZAVIS
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — British hostage Kenneth Bigley, who pleaded tearfully last month for Prime Minister Tony Blair to meet his kidnappers' demands, was beheaded by his captors, his brother said Friday.

"We can confirm that the family has now received absolute proof that Ken Bigley was executed by his captors," Philip Bigley said in a statement he read on national television in Britain.

"The family here in Liverpool believe that our government did everything it possibly could to secure the release of Ken in this impossible situation."

But another brother, Paul, said Blair has "blood on his hands." He made the comment in a written statement to the Stop the War Coalition, an activist group in Britain that opposes the conflict.

A witness who saw a videotape set to Abu Dhabi TV said it showed six hooded, armed men standing behind the kneeling Bigley, whom the witness recognized from two previous tapes released by the kidnappers in which he pleaded for his life.

One of the six then spoke in Arabic for about a minute, saying they planned to carry out "the sentence of execution against this hostage" because the British government "did not meet our demand" to release Iraqi women detained by the U.S.-led command in Iraq.

Afterward, the speaker took a knife from his belt and severed Bigley's head as three others held him down, the witness said on condition of anonymity. The tape ended with the killer holding up the severed head.

The U.S. military in Iraq said it had not found Bigley's body.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw condemned the killing.

Earlier, Cabinet minister Patricia Hewitt told Sky TV, "We cannot get into the business of negotiating with terrorists, with hostage takers, with these evil people who have inflicted such appalling suffering already on Ken Bigley and his family."

Abu Dhabi TV said it had the video showing Bigley's beheading but decided not to air it.

Bigley, 62, was abducted Sept. 16 along with two Americans from their home in the upscale Mansour neighborhood by members of Tawhid and Jihad, Iraq's most feared terrorist group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

The two Americans — Eugene

Armstrong, 52, and Jack Hensley, 48 — were beheaded a few days later.

Two videos surfaced last month showing Bigley begging Blair to save his life by meeting his captors' demands.

Early Friday, American warplanes struck a building in rebel-held Fallujah where the U.S. command said leaders of al-Zarqawi's network were meeting. A doctor said the attack killed 13 people, including a groom on his wedding night, and wounded 17 others.

The U.S. command said "credible intelligence sources" reported that 809 leaders were meeting at the targeted house in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad.

The attack in Fallujah was among a dozen "precision strikes" launched since last month against al-Zarqawi's network. Besides claiming to have kidnapped and beheaded foreign hostages, the group is also believed to be behind mortar attacks, suicide bombings and shooting sprees that have killed scores in recent months.

The U.S. military said those strikes dealt a "significant blow" to al-Zarqawi's movement, killing several key figures, including chief lieutenant Mohammed al-Lubani and spiritual adviser Abu Anas al-Shami.

Dr. Ahmed Saad said his hospital in Fallujah received 13 dead, including the groom, and 17 wounded, including the bride. He said most of the injured were female relatives of the groom who were staying at the house after the wedding.

American and Iraqi authorities are trying to curb the growing insurgency in Baghdad and elsewhere so national elections can take place by Jan. 31. Some U.S. military officials have expressed doubt that balloting will be possible in all parts of the country.

Late Thursday, three rockets struck Baghdad's Sheraton Hotel crowded with foreign contractors and journalists, shattering windows and sparking small fires. There were no serious injuries.

Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said the rockets were fired from the back of a truck. A fourth blew up inside the vehicle, he said, and security guards responded with gunfire.

Earlier, a mortar shell exploded in the U.S.-controlled Green Zone across the Tigris River from the hotel compound. There was no report of damage or casualties.

Acting on a tip, Task Force Baghdad soldiers stopped a truck carrying more than 1,500 ISS-munition rounds Thursday one of the largest seizures to date, U.S. command said. The driver and passengers were detained.

Associated Press writers Omar Sinan, Hama Hindawi and Tawad al-Isawi contributed to this report.



Iraqis inspect the debris of a truck fire in Baghdad that was used to fire Katyusha rockets which slammed into the Sheraton Hotel late Thursday, the Interior Ministry said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, Oct. 7, 2004, 1,064 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 809 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador,

Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 926 U.S. military members have died — 700 as a result of hostile action and 226 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Thursday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One U.S. soldier was killed Wednesday in an attack against his convoy in Fallujah.
■ One U.S. soldier was killed Wednesday in an attack near Beji.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. James L. Pettaway Jr., 37, Baltimore, died Sunday at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, of injuries sustained Aug. 27 in a motor vehicle accident in Fallujah, assigned to the Army Reserves 223rd Transportation Company, Norristown, Pa.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Richard L. Morgan Jr., 38, St. Clairsville, Ohio, died Tuesday in Latifiyah of injuries sustained Monday when an explosive detonated near his convoy vehicle, assigned to the Army Reserves 660th Transportation Company, Cadiz, Ohio.

British traded messages with Bigley's captors to no avail

The Associated Press

LONDON — The British government exchanged messages with Kenneth Bigley's captors before he was executed in an effort to win his release, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Friday.

"Four days ago, an individual approached the British embassy in Baghdad presenting himself as a potential intermediary with the captives. It was very clearly in Mr. Bigley's interests to establish contacts," Straw said on national television in Britain.

"Messages were exchanged with the hostage-takers in an attempt to dissuade them from carrying out their threat to kill Mr. Bigley, but at no stage did they abandon their demands relating to the release of women prisoners, even though they were fully aware there are no women prisoners in our custody in Iraq."

Straw said he and Prime Minister Tony Blair had approved these communications and endorsed their content, keeping them in line with public statements they had made about the crisis.

Straw also said the Bigley family in Liverpool and Kenneth Bigley's wife in Thailand were kept informed about the messages.

The British government had repeatedly said during the hostage drama that it would talk with the kidnappers, but never agree to pay a ransom or to concede to political demands they made.



British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, left, enters a news conference Friday in London where he confirmed Bigley's death.



First Lt. Glen Morales, an Air Defense Artillery officer, is flanked by Afghan National Army soldiers as they watch for movement on an opposite mountainside. The forces were in the middle of an ambush that followed a gun battle in an insurgent stronghold northwest of Asadabad, Afghanistan, near the Pakistan border.

PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Afghan Special Forces caught in ambush

Eastern Afghanistan remains stronghold for forces opposing democracy

BY TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

KANDAGAL, Afghanistan — Oblivious to the gunfire echoing off the steep, rocky slopes, an Afghan Special Forces soldier shook his head and rolled his eyes as he walked between vehicles trapped in the mountain ambush Thursday.

"Oh, noooo Taliban," the masked fighter said in a tone partly annoyed, partly bemused. "Nooooo Taliban."

Well, maybe a few.

Pushed into the background by ongoing elections, the fight continues for this section of Kunar Province, just a few kilometers from insurgent sanctuaries in Pakistan. Eastern Afghanistan remains a stronghold for forces opposed to Afghanistan's nascent democracy.

But this is not a war where America can send overwhelming force to kill Taliban, al-Qaida and renegade warlords. The "war" centers on winning allegiances one village at a time, then extracting intelligence so Special Forces teams can locate and kill insurgents.

Perhaps, due to the nonchalance of soldiers and officers from the 3rd Special Forces Group leading the convoy, the irritated Afghan fighter had gotten the idea the mission — an impromptu clinic — would be uneventful.

The Americans knew better. On Wednesday night, operators at Camp Blessing outside Nangalam were candid with the mélange of American civilian and military officials from the Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team.

"We're bound to be hit. We've been hit twice at this one chokepoint, and we spanked 'em both times," said the soldier who asked his name not be published for security reasons. "We didn't lose anybody."

As the 15-vehicle convoy — Americans and Afghan fighters and officials — approached a chokepoint at about 4,700 feet in the mountains, an American soldier spots a cluster of would-be ambushers on the opposing slope, opening fire at about 9:15 a.m. The ensuing shootout lasts about 15 minutes.

"We're bound to be hit. We've been hit twice at this one chokepoint, and we spanked 'em both times. We didn't lose anybody."

Anonymous American soldier

The convoy then moves around the side of the mountain and into an ambush. Insurgents with assault rifles make a major tactical error in engaging the larger, far more heavily armed convoy. Sending down salvos of small-arms fire. In return, they receive small-arms fire punctuated with MK-19 grenades and 50-caliber machine guns. Fighting ends by approximately 9:35 a.m. when Apache attack helicopters arrive. There were no casualties among U.S. or Afghan army units.

The last time soldiers based at Camp Blessing and civil affairs and base officials from Firebase Asadabad held a clinic, it was attacked by insurgents.

A warlord put out a 150,000 Afghan rubel (approximately \$3,200) bounty for Americans, said Maj. Jeff McClane, trainer with the 293rd Light Anti-Tank Infantry from Indiana, embedded with the Afghan army. Moreover, the warlord vowed to keep the Americans out of his mountain redoubt, McClane said.

Thursday's trek across rivers and up rutted, boulder-strewn roads to isolated Kandagal was the Americans' way to both defy the warlord, deflating his authority, and to extract intelligence needed to hunt him down.

The clinics are crucial to U.S. intelligence. Medics and civil affairs troops create good will by bandaging wounds and handing out painkillers and vitamins to those few dozen people brave enough — or desperate enough — to defy the warlord.

That good will can create good intelligence.



A Special Forces medic, left, who requested his name not be published for security concerns, uses a translator to listen to a Kandagal, Afghanistan, elder. The soldier was pressing the man for information concerning anti-government forces in the area.

gence, which is what the troops are searching for.

A Special Forces doctor, ministering to a sick Kandagal man while telling him, "We'd like to come back, but it's too dangerous. You know, we could come every month if you'd help us."

Another Special Forces operator tells an elder that the group would like to help them more, but they got ambushed coming up. Under repeat quizzing, the men admit they know who the insurgents are, but will say no more.

Thursday's mission into the mountains proceeded only after a number of last-minute changes and complications that left many in the convoy confused and distracted.

U.S. soldiers, at least, know what they're getting into. The night before, Capt. Jim Wilt, with the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion reservists from Maryland, is drilling one of his soldiers, asking how quickly he can put overwhelming fire on the mountainside.

Sure enough, minutes after a Green

Beret notes the convoy is approaching the previous ambush site, a National Guard soldier spots insurgents across the valley and opens up his heavy machine gun.

The convoy, a mishmash of everyone from Afghan fighters to American psy-ops units, fights with confidence unusual in units with no combat experience.

It's was a historic day for National Guard — the first time since World War II that the 34th Division has seen combat, said 1st Sgt. Leigh Davis, with the 1st Battalion, 68th Infantry Regiment.

After the clinic, the convoy escapes a return battle by calling on covering fire from A-10s and from Firebase Asadabad artillery.

Overall, it's a day of uncertainty. Some believe insurgent units are isolated and impotent in the mountains. Others believe they're waiting for election day.

The only thing that is certain is that in this contested area, the insurgents likely can't stop the voting, but they still have the willpower to carry on the war.

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President concedes Saddam had no WMDs

Bush tries to focus on violations of U.N. program

By SCOTT LINDLAW
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush and his vice president conceded Thursday in the clearest terms yet that Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, even as they tried to shift the Iraq war debate to a new issue — whether the invasion was justified because Saddam was abusing a U.N. oil-for-food program.

Ridiculing the Bush administration's evolving rationale for war, Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry shot back: "You don't make up or find reasons to go to war after the fact."

Vice President Dick Cheney brushed aside the central findings of chief U.S. weapons hunter Charles Duelfer — that Saddam not only had no weapons of mass destruction and had not made any since 1991, but that he had no capability of making any either — while Bush unapologetically defended his decision to invade Iraq.

"The Duelfer report showed that Saddam was systematically gaming the system, using the U.N. oil-for-food program to try to influence companies and companies in an effort to undermine sanctions," Bush said as he prepared to fly to campaign events in Wisconsin. "He was doing so with the intent of restarting his weapons program once the world looked away."

Duelfer found no formal plan by Saddam to resume WMD production, but the inspector sur-

mised that Saddam intended to do so if U.N. sanctions were lifted. Bush seized upon that inference, using the word "intent" three times in reference to Saddam's plans to resume making weapons.

This week marks the first time that the Bush administration has listed abuses in the oil-for-food program as an Iraq war rationale. But the strategy holds risks be-

“The Duelfer report showed that Saddam was systematically gaming the system, using the U.N. oil-for-food program to try to ... undermine sanctions.”

President Bush

cause some of the countries that could be implicated include U.S. allies, such as Poland, Jordan and Egypt. In addition, the United States itself played a significant role in both the creation of the program and how it was operated and overseen.

For his part, Cheney dismissed the significance of Duelfer's central findings, telling supporters in

Miami, "The headlines all say 'no weapons of mass destruction stockpiled in Baghdad.' We already knew that."

The vice president said he found other parts of the report "more intriguing," including the finding that Saddam's main goal was the removal of international sanctions.

The report underscored that "delay, defer, wait, wasn't an option," Cheney said. And he told a later forum in Fort Myers, Florida, speaking of the oil-for-food program: "The sanctions regime was coming apart at the seams. Saddam perverted that whole thing and generated billions of dollars."

Yet Bush and Cheney acknowledged more definitively than before that Saddam did not have the banned weapons that both men had asserted he did — and had cited as the major justification before attacking Iraq in March 2003.

Bush has recently left the question open. For example, when asked in June whether he thought such weapons had existed in Iraq, Bush said he would "wait until Charlie [Duelfer] gets back with the final report."

In July, Bush said, "We have not found stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction," a sentence construction that kept alive the possibility the weapons might yet be discovered.

On Thursday, the president used the clearest language to date nailing the question shut: "Iraq did not have the weapons that our intelligence believed were there," Bush said.

France, others reject bribery allegations

By JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

PARIS — France urged caution Thursday in dealing with a U.S. inspector's allegations it was involved in corruption at the U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq, while others singled out in the report rejected the charges as "far-fetched."

The report issued Wednesday by Charles Duelfer, head of the Iraq Survey Group, said Saddam Hussein issued secret vouchers for the purchase of oil, which could then be resold at a profit, to an array of officials and political figures from various countries, mainly Russia, France and China.

The report named former French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, Indonesian president Megawati Sukarnoputri and the Russian radical political figure Vladimir Zhirinovskiy as voucher recipients and implicated foreign governments, including Namibia and Yemen.

Zhirinovskiy, who frequently traveled to Saddam's Iraq and had called for increased trade between the two countries, adamantly denied the claim in the report, which also cited top Russian oil companies Yukos and Lukoil as recipients.

Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman Marty Natalegawa also rejected the accusations.

"There is no credence to these allegations," Natalegawa said.

"It's a fact that we took part in the oil-for-food program, but this notion of vouchers is far-fetched. There were no dealings other than the oil-for-food."

The Namibian government also was quick to proclaim it had never received vouchers from Saddam or purchased any oil from Iraq.

"We never had any connection to Saddam Hussein. My president has condemned Saddam Hussein," Information Minister Nanjilo Mumba said in a telephone interview on Wednesday. He added that Namibia buys all its oil from South Africa.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Hervé Ladsous counseled caution, saying the allegations weren't checked with the people or countries involved.

"It is important to assure oneself very precisely on the veracity of this information," he said. "We understand that these accusations against companies and individuals were not verified either with the people themselves or with the authorities of the countries concerned."

The names of American companies and individuals who may have been involved in oil deals weren't released because of U.S. privacy laws, the report said.

Returning from Samarra mission



U.S. Army soldiers leave Samarra, Iraq, on Thursday on the way to their base outside of the city. U.S. and Iraqi troops joined efforts in a military offensive last week to reclaim the central Iraq city from insurgents.

NATO OKs Iraq training outline; Petraeus to lead

By PAUL AMES
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO allies approved a detailed outline of their plan to send around 300 military instructors to Iraq following talks with the U.S. general leading the drive to rebuild the country's armed forces.

Ambassadors from the 26 NATO nations quickly adopted a "concept of operations" for the mission to set up an officers' academy outside Baghdad, allowing military experts to draw up final plans to start the mission.

A NATO official said the plans should be completed within weeks "at most."

Allies gave U.S. Lt. Gen. David Petraeus immediate command of the NATO training mission — which began in August with the deployment of about 40 instructors.

Petraeus will command the NATO troops, reporting back to allied headquarters, as well as running the much wider U.S.-led program to build up Iraq's forces to around 250,000.

The United States is pushing for the academy to be operational by the end of this year. It was still

not clear how many extra NATO troops will be shipped to Iraq to provide protection for the instructors.

NATO's top commander Gen. James L. Jones has spoken of a maximum of 3,000 but suggested the level could be much lower. Diplomats at NATO headquarters said the total figure for alliance troops involved in the mission could rise to 2,000.

After overcoming French concerns, NATO agreed last month on the outline of the plan, but differences emerged over how many NATO troops will be needed to protect them.

France had bristled at the prospect of sending thousands of NATO troops after insisting the training mission keep a low profile.

Planners are seeking to define how U.S.-led coalition troops already in Iraq would protect the NATO instructors, though it is unclear how many new NATO guards would also be needed.

Although most NATO allies have sent soldiers to Iraq, objections from France and Germany had previously prevented the alliance from taking a collective role there.

Raptors at rest: Company C cases colors

UH-60 Black Hawk company is deactivated less than one year after grueling deployment in Iraq

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

GIEBELSTADT, Germany — The Raptors of Company C have snuggled their last prey.

Eight months after returning from a grueling year in Iraq, the UH-60 Black Hawk company — part of the Giebelstadt-based 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment — used its colors Thursday at a deactivation ceremony.

"As the guidon is rolled for the final time, let it never be forgotten, but always remembered," said Capt. Thomas E. "Ed" Austin, in a farewell speech to the company's 35 members at the battalion's hangar.

The shutdown reduces the strength of the 5-158 Aviation from 24 Black Hawks to 16. The battalion is part of the 12th Aviation Brigade, whose job it is to move personnel and equipment for the Germany-based V Corps.

Michael Tolzmann, a spokesman for U.S. Army Europe, said Company C's deactivation has been planned since 2002 as part of the reformatting of the 158th Aviation — a program running parallel with, but that is not connected



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Ed Austin, Company C's final commander, speaks to his men for the last time. The company, part of the Giebelstadt-based 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, was deactivated Thursday, eight months after the unit returned from a grueling yearlong deployment to Iraq.

to the Pentagon's "Global Posture and Repositioning" initiative that is scheduled to sharply reduce the Army's presence in Europe.

Tolzmann said Company C was supposed to be deactivated in 2003, but that was postponed because of the unit's deployment to

Iraq. He said no plans have been completed for the shutdown of any other Army aviation units.

The 5-158 Aviation's commander, Lt. Col. Clay Hutmacher, said the Army transformation plan eventually will change the look of units like his. Instead of three companies of Black Hawk aircraft, they will have one Black Hawk aircraft company, one medical evacuation company and one CH-47 Chinook aircraft company.

Then, he said, the reconfigured aviation battalions will be attached to the new Army brigades that are currently replacing the division structure the Pentagon now believes is outmoded.

"I think this transformation is long overdue," Hutmacher said. "It will make us more relevant, more rapidly deployable, and more lethal."

The company was organized in 1961 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield and moved to Giebelstadt the next year. In its short history, it deployed Black Hawk crews to Tunisia, Mali, Norway, Czech Republic and Poland before heading to Kuwait for Operation Iraqi Freedom in late 2002 and staying until February 2004.

Austin praised his troops for flying the highest number of combat hours of any Black Hawk unit in Iraq during the first rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and also for fielding Task Force Gabriel, the Army's first personnel-recovery task force. Between March and May 2003, Task Force Gabriel crews helped search for several downed aircraft, rescued an Army long-range surveillance team deep in Iraq, and ferried seven rescued prisoners of war to safety.

The unit spent the past several months packing up their helicopters for other units. Four of the birds already have been sent to Iraq, Hutmacher said.

All of the Company C pilots and soldiers are moving to other units within the 12th Brigade, so none will be leaving Giebelstadt. Still, they agreed it isn't easy to see the Raptors disappear.

"Because of the time in Iraq and the bond that people built, I think there's a little bit of sadness," said Austin, 30, of Effingham, Ill. "But no one's kicking and screaming about seeing it."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewers@mail.ustrps.osd.mil

Military draft rejected; manpower crunch real

Army officials, meanwhile, have confirmed that wartime demands prevent the service, for now, from shortening yearlong tours of duty for soldiers sent to Iraq and Afghanistan, even with 147,000 Army National Guard and Reserve forces still mobilized to support those wars.

"The Army, after doing its analysis, is looking at the possibility of doing less than 12-month tours, but that's not something that can be done right now," said Lt. Col. Gerard Healy, an Army spokesman. "And it's not really anticipated to be happening anytime soon."

The next rotation of soldiers into Iraq, set to occur from January through April, will stay at 12-month tours, said Healy. Developments that could shorten future tours, he said, include a slowdown in the pace of operations, more non-U.S. coalition forces or "greater participation by Iraqi forces" in securing their own country. Until some of that occurs, he said, the Army must stay with "12-month boots-on-the-ground rotations."

Last month, before Army audiences, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had difficulty explaining why soldiers serve year-long combat tours and Marines face only seven-month rotations.

"I say to myself 'That doesn't make a lot of sense,'" Rumsfeld conceded to soldiers Sept. 14 during a visit to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

The defense chief said he has met twice with the Army chief of staff and Marine Corps leaders to discuss tour lengths.

"The Marines argue vigorously that they have many younger people who come in, serve [an enlistment] and leave. [So] that rotation rhythm is built into the calendar months and then have those people go back and end up with 14 months' total deployment. In contrast, during their first enlist-

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

ments, soldiers typically will serve only 12 months, Marines argued.

Rumsfeld said he challenged this two-tour versus one-tour argument, suggesting the extra movement of Marines was inefficient. But Marine Corps leaders countered that soldiers on 12-month tours are sent home anyway, for a two-week respite. Marines are not.

Rumsfeld said he also asked if it wasn't inefficient to bring Marines home after only seven months and gaining "situational awareness." Why not a year? If tours last longer than seven months, Marine leaders maintained, troops lose their focus and become less effective.

Both the Army and Marine Corps are "absolutely convinced" they're right, said Rumsfeld, "and I am as uncertain of either as I was before."

Rep. John Marsha, D-Pa., one of only two lawmakers to vote for reconstituting the draft (which the House voted against 402-2 Thursday), cited the strain on ground forces during floor debate.

"We have 135,000 troops in Iraq right now. We are going to have to have 135,000 there for at least two years," said Marsha, a retired Marine officer and a senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee. "There is no way we are going to be able to do the fourth round of replacements without some kind of a draft."

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail militaryupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

Kennedy carrier group commander replaced

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

The Navy has replaced the commander of the John F. Kennedy Carrier Strike Group due to unforeseen complications with a "pre-existing medical condition," 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. James Graybeal said Friday.

Rear Adm. John S. Godlewski took the helm of the strike group less than six weeks ago. Rear Adm. Barry McCullough, who most recently served as the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group commander, relieved Godlewski on Wednesday.

The Norfolk, Va.-based carrier strike group is currently deployed to the Middle East in support of the war on terrorism.

The Navy flew Godlewski off the carrier to Kuwait before taking him to the United States for additional care, Graybeal said.

He could not give any details about the medical condition because of privacy concerns.

It was not known if Godlewski will be able to return to duty or the carrier group.

Godlewski is a Connecticut native. He graduated from the University of New Haven in 1974. He was designated a naval flight officer in June 1997 and went on to fly A-6 aircraft before his rise to the admiral rank.

He has previously served as chief of staff for the Commander, Second Fleet and as deputy chief of staff for Resources, Requirements and Assessments for the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The John F. Kennedy Strike Group includes an aircraft carrier, four destroyers, two frigates, two cruisers, one fast combat support ship and one submarine.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.ustrps.osd.mil

6 officers, enlisted blamed in death

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Failures by officers and enlisted personnel and inadequate faulty equipment aboard the USS John F. Kennedy contributed to the death of a sailor or in April, according to a Navy report.

Six officers and enlisted personnel failed in their jobs as department heads and had too much work the day of Seaman Apprentice Dixie J. Brown's death, according to the Judge Advocate General's report.

The crewmembers on the Jacksonville-based carrier were disciplined in May, but the Navy did not disclose their punishments or names. Brown died and Seaman Brian F. Carr was sent to the hospital from inhaling toxic gases that escaped as they worked in the ship's sewage pump room.

"Lack of oversight, poor crew supervi-

sion, insufficient training and inoperative equipment contributed to an unsafe working environment and, ultimately, to this tragic accident," according to a July letter in the report signed by Rear Adm. J. M. Zorn, commander of Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet.

Brown, 22, of Titusville, and Carr, of Fairland, Okla., accidentally pulled out a disk that blocked sewage from the pump. The report obtained Tuesday by The Florida Times-Union.

Sewage began spraying out of the pipe and hydrogen sulfide gas, which has a pungent, rotten egg-like odor, also spewed out. Brown was told to get out of the room, but he shouted "I'm not going through that," the report said.

The alarm that was supposed to warn them of the gas threat had been broken since February.

IN THE STATES

NASA inspector denies lying



Former NASA inspector Billy T. Thornton, left, leaves Federal Court in Orlando, Fla., on Friday, after pleading innocent at his arraignment. Thornton is accused of lying about inspecting crucial parts on the space shuttle Discovery before and after the Columbia disaster that killed seven astronauts and grounded the entire orbiter fleet.

Education officials alert six states of possible terror act

Computer disc found in Iraq contained floor plans, other data on schools

BY ELIZABETH WOLFE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Education officials in six states were put on notice last month that a computer disc found in Iraq over the summer contained photos, floor plans and other information about schools in their districts, two U.S. government officials said.

The downloaded data the U.S. military found in July — all publicly available on the Internet — included an Education Department report guiding schools on how to prepare and respond to a crisis, one official said Thursday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The officials said it was unclear who downloaded the information and stressed they had no evidence of any specific threats involving the schools.

The districts mentioned were in California, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, New Jersey and Oregon, officials said, adding that the FBI alerted local education and law enforcement authorities of the finding about three weeks ago.

Officials did not provide the names of the districts. But Kay Baker, superintendent of Oregon's Salem-Keizer district, confirmed hers was among them.

Homeland Security Department spokesman Brian Rochkassie said, "We are unaware of any specific information that indicates terrorists are plotting or planning an attack at a school here in the United States."

San Diego schools also were included, according to The San Diego Union-Tribune, and ABC News said there was a second California district. The Salem Statesman Journal reported the other districts were Fort Myers, Fla.; Jones County, Ga.; Birch Run, Mich.; and Franklinville and Rumson, both in New Jersey.

The disc contained an Education Department report called "Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities," published in May 2003, as well as photos and floor plans.

In a separate but more widespread warning put out this week, the Education Department advised school leaders nationwide to watch for people spying on their buildings or buses to help detect any possibility of terrorism like the deadly school siege last month in Russia.

The warning follows an analysis by the FBI and the Homeland Security Depart-

ment of the siege that killed more than 330 people, nearly half of them children, in the city of Beslan.

"The horror of this attack may have created significant anxiety in our own country among parents, students, faculty staff and other community members," Deputy Education Secretary Eugene Hickok said in a letter sent Wednesday to schools and education groups.

The Education Department's advice is based on lessons learned from the Russian siege. But there is no specific information indicating a terrorist threat to any schools or universities in the United States, Hickok and other officials emphasized.

Federal law enforcement officials also have urged local police to stay in contact with school officials and have encouraged reporting of suspicious activities, the letter said.

The federal government is advising schools to take many steps to improve the security of their buildings. Those include installing locks for all doors and windows, having a single entry point into buildings and ensuring they can reach school bus drivers in an emergency.

Associated Press writers Curt Anderson and Ben Feller contributed to this report.

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Park to give disabled access to wilderness



International Paper Co. is developing a wilderness recreation area that will accommodate people with disabilities on a 150-acre section of a 16,000-acre tract of land in the heart of the Adirondacks, about 100 miles northwest of Albany, N.Y., specifically designed for disabled people.

BY MARY ESCH
The Associated Press

LONG LAKE, N.Y. — After devoting his life to preserving Adirondack wilderness, Tim Barnett can't hike through a fragrant balsam glade or paddle across a misty mountain lake.

Seven years ago, while he was on sabbatical in Kyrgyzstan helping set up a national park in the Tien Shan Mountains, Barnett was thrown from his horse in a remote wilderness area. The accident left him a quadriplegic.

Barnett, vice president of the Adirondack Nature Conservancy in Keene Valley, now confines his explorations to places accessible only by motorized wheelchair.

There are plenty of parks and campgrounds with wheelchair-accessible restrooms and sidewalks. But when it comes to experiencing the remote interior of wilderness areas far from electricity and pavement, the opportunities are limited.

Now, a paper company is expanding those opportunities by developing a wilderness recreation area specifically designed for disabled people.

International Paper Co. has desig-

nated 16,000 acres in the heart of the Adirondacks as John Dillon Park in honor of its recently retired chairman. Last spring, the timber company donated a conservation easement to the state, guaranteeing the land will never be sold for development and will be opened for recreation.

The company will continue sustainable forestry operations there and keep existing leases with hunting clubs. It will also allow the state to put in a snowmobile trail linking trails on adjacent state land.

Facilities for people with disabilities will be constructed on a 150-acre section of the tract about 100 miles northwest of Albany.

"There is really no other area like this dedicated to this user group," International Paper spokesman Bob Stegemann said as he hiked along a pine needle-cushioned trail skirting Grampus Lake, one of four lakes in the heavily forested region.

"We want to make this a place where people with disabilities can have a truly extraordinary experience in the back country," Stegemann said.

Construction of trails and amenities will begin this fall and take about a year to complete, Stegemann said.

Plans call for a 6-foot-wide path, firmly surfaced with crushed native stone, meandering along Grampus lake and continuing 2 miles to Handsome Pond. Log lean-tos, the traditional open-front Adirondack camping huts, will have modifications for wheelchairs.

There will also be accessible canoe and kayak launch areas and fishing spots, composting toilets, and an electric wheelchair recharging station powered by solar panels and a backup generator.

An unpaved, 2-mile-long road will provide automotive access for campers from the nearest highway to a parking lot at a headquarters area where resident staff and caretakers will stay.

Tom Kokx, a landscape architect and consultant in Guilford, N.H., is designing the facilities.

Most such projects in state and national parks involve eliminating barriers in existing facilities, most of which can be reached by car, Kokx said.

"What's different about this is, it's in a setting that's completely undeveloped," Kokx said. "We have an opportunity to design something from the ground up rather than correcting something that's already there."

FBI searches for Gotti burial sites

BY TOM HAYS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's no place to rest in peace: a vacant lot covered with thick swaths of reeds, slabs of cement and trash.

But federal authorities believe the site in a remote section of Queens could be a graveyard for targets of hits ordered by former mob boss John Gotti and other gangsters more than two decades ago.

Acting on a tip by an informant, a team of FBI agents has begun searching for the remains of a half dozen or more victims. They include a man whose fatal mistake was killing the 12-year-old son of the "Dapper Don" in a traffic accident.

Another victim was a former mob captain nicknamed "Lucky." No findings were reported during the first four days of digging this week. The job was expected to continue Friday and beyond.

The suspected burial ground is situated on Ruby Street, just west of John F. Kennedy International Airport. Dilapidated homes, abandoned cars and other empty lots dot the marshy landscape. On a recent day, traffic was almost nonexistent.

The desolation suited the Gambino organized crime family. "They picked it because it wasn't far from their stomping grounds and it was secluded," said Rudy Capaci, a mob expert and columnist. "But the key thing was that they thought it would never be looked at."

While no one was looking, Gotti's crew allegedly used the lot to make the bodies of traitors and enemies — whacked by both their crime family and others — disappear. Two of the dead are be-



Investigators dig in a vacant lot in Queens, N.Y., on Thursday. Federal authorities believe the site could be a graveyard for targets of hits ordered by former mob boss John Gotti.

lieved to be former captains of the Bonanno family, Dominick "Big Tim" Trinchera and Philip "Philly Lucky" Giaccone.

Trinchera, Giaccone and another Bonanno captain, Alphonse "Sonny Red" Indelicato, were shotgunned to death at a Brooklyn social club in 1981 amid an internal struggle for control of the family. Joseph Massino, who later became boss, was convicted earlier this year in the slayings based on the testimony of turncoat mobsters.

Investigators suspect Ruby Street was also the last stop for a neighbor of Gotti who disappeared 24 years ago.

John Favara, 51, accidentally hit and killed Gotti's young son with his car in March 1980 while

the boy was riding a mini bike near his home. About four months later, after receiving anonymous death threats, Favara was abducted outside a Long Island diner and vanished; Gotti was in Florida at the time.

Gotti — once the nation's most feared gangster as head of the Gambinos — denied any involvement. But he never hid his rage toward Favara.

"I wouldn't be sorry if the guy turned up dead," he told the FBI at the time. Gotti was sentenced to life in prison for racketeering and murder in 1992, and died behind bars in 2002. By then, Favara was a forgotten footnote in Mafia lore. But a recent case against the Bonanos produced the fresh tip about Favara's whereabouts — and the digging began.

Congress mulling relief aid package

BY JIM ABRAMS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House agreed to tack on another \$887 million to hurricane aid for Florida and the Southeast as Congress worked Friday to put the final touches on a multibillion-dollar storm and drought disaster package.

With the new money, the package would include \$11.9 billion for hurricane relief and \$2.9 billion to assist farmers in the drought-plagued Plains. Congress previously approved \$2 billion to help Florida and neighboring states recover from a series of four devastating hurricanes.

The House was possibly taking up the aid package, if a deal was reached, on Friday before its scheduled recess, and the Senate possibly on Saturday.

The additional \$887 million would go part way toward satisfying Florida lawmakers who have stressed that the level of federal aid is still not enough to cope with one of the worst natural disasters to hit the state in decades.

White House Office of Management and Budget Director Joshua Bolten, in a letter to congressional leaders, said the new money included \$348 million for Agriculture Department forestry and watershed protection programs, \$402 million for highway repairs and \$117 million for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects to restore navigation channels and rehabilitate beaches.

The \$11 billion in the original package is divided among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the Small Business Administration and others involved in recovery efforts in Florida and other Southeast states.

It also includes \$100 million to help Grenada, Jamaica, Haiti and other Caribbean nations that suffered heavy damage from the storms.

Finally, there's \$2.9 billion for farmers, primarily in the Great Plains, who are enduring a prolonged drought. Lawmakers from those states argued disaster relief should not go primarily to Florida, a key battleground state in the November election. But unlike the hurricane money, which will add to the federal deficit, House leaders insisted that the drought money be paid for, in this case by cuts in a conservation program.

But the odds that the emergency package would pass before lawmakers go home to campaign, it was attached to a must-pass, \$32 billion spending bill for the Homeland Security Department.

But even then, there were several complications Thursday.

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, threatened to filibuster the funding bill if he did not get a vote on the cutbacks, a move that could force the Senate to reconvene next week. Also left undecided Thursday was an amendment by Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., that would extend a milk support program.

Poll: Kerry takes slight lead over Bush in race

BY WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Kerry has taken a slight lead over President Bush, according to an Associated Press poll that found him gaining ground with women, boosting his overall popularity and cutting into the president's advantage on national security.

The two candidates remain in a very close race ahead of a second debate Friday night in St. Louis.

Among 944 likely voters, the Democratic ticket of Kerry and John Edwards led Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, 50 percent to 46 percent, in the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

The Oct. 4-6 survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The race was tied at 47 percent among the 1,273 registered voters in the poll, similar to others showing a tight race.

With bloodshed increasing in Iraq, Kerry sharpened his attacks, and Bush stumbled in their initial debate a week ago. Another possible factor influencing the results: consumer confidence has been dropping in recent weeks, according to several measures of attitudes about the economy.

Nearly three-fourths of likely voters surveyed by the AP said they had watched or listened to the first Bush-Kerry debate on Sept. 30. About four in 10 — 39 percent — said they came away with a more favorable view of Kerry, while just 8 percent felt better about Bush.

"I was more comfortable with Kerry after the debate," said Louis Robinson, a 66-year-old retiree and Democrat from Pittsburgh.

Nearly one-third of those who watched the debate said it gave them a less favorable view of Bush.

Bush advisers privately acknowledge that he cost himself in the first debate by fidgeting and

grimacing during Kerry's answers and failing to seize upon openings by the Democrat. They felt better about Cheney's performance Tuesday against Edwards, the Democratic vice presidential candidate.

Nearly six in 10 of all the people questioned said the country was headed down the wrong track, reflecting a gloomy national mood that could jeopardize Bush's re-election bid. His overall job approval rating among likely voters, 46 percent, was at its lowest point since June — down from 54 percent in late September.

Bush's current job approval falls at the midpoint between recent presidents who won and lost re-election. Forty-four percent of likely voters approved of Bush's handling of the war in Iraq, down from 51 percent in the late-September

Bush

On the issues



Should the government legalize the importation of cheaper prescription drugs from Canada or other countries?

President Bush



"Any drug importation plan must guarantee Americans the safety and effectiveness they currently have under the gold-standard of the Food and Drug Administration. I have appointed Surgeon General Richard Carmona to lead a federal task force to determine what resources and authority would be needed to

ensure that importation could be done safely. Since 2001, I have worked to lower the costs of medicines for all Americans by passing a new Medicare drug benefit to cut seniors' drug costs in half. We have also closed loopholes to speed safe and effective generic drugs to market, saving American consumers \$35 billion in drug costs over 10 years."

Sen. John Kerry



"Yes, it's right to allow reimportation of safe, FDA-approved prescription drugs to give our seniors affordable access to the substantial discounts for prescriptions available in Canada and other countries. The prescription drug industry

charges Americans the highest prices for prescription drugs in the world, while reaping high profits. I will allow individuals, pharmacists, wholesalers and distributors to reimport FDA-approved prescription drugs from other countries at lower prices with systems to ensure safety as well as lower costs."

AP

poll. Likely voters were about evenly split — Bush at 49 percent and Kerry at 46 percent — on the question of who is best suited to handle Iraq.

On the question of who would do the best job protecting the country, Bush led Kerry 51 percent to 45 percent among likely voters — down from the 20-point lead Bush held in a Sept. 7 poll

by AP-Ipsos. Bush has had a big advantage on that issue since the beginning of the campaign.

"The biggest thing is that I feel comfortable with Bush on terrorism, foreign conflicts and any challenge at home," said Wanda Burkel, a 54-year-old independent from Lake Forest, Calif.

AP writers Ron Fournier and Trevor Tompkins contributed to this report.

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Some kids want songs of hope, not of discord

BY ADAM SMELTZ
Knight Rider Newsletters

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — As big-name bands storm the country with an anti-Bush, pro-voting voter this fall, young adults in this musical hot spot have a message for the lefty crooners: Cool it on the hatin' — and serve up some hopeful vision instead of just knocking Republicans.

"A lot of musicians bash the current administration rather than forwarding a specific agenda," said Shawn Wilson, 19, an English major at the University of North Carolina who calls himself socially liberal but fiscally conservative.

Today's political tones may not be as inspired or as impassioned as the anti-war lyrics of the Vietnam War era, UNC students said. But even in this Democratic bastion in a Bush-leaning state, some Generation Y'ers are concerned that current "political" music centers on ripping apart Republicans and lacks any John Lennon-like utopian goals.

The MoveOn.org-sponsored "Vote for Change" tour is taking 40 left-leaning shows nationwide before Election Day, touting appearances by Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt, Pearl Jam, the Dixie Chicks, Dave Matthews Band, Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds and James Taylor.

At the same time, punk rockers promoted through PunkVote.org.com are pushing Bush-knock-

ing sentiments through cyber-space. Hip-hop artists have boarded the train as well, with Mary J. Blige, Chingy, Ashanti and others joining forces for a redo of the 1970s hit "Wake Up, Everybody."

Many of the musicians exhort young people to become more politically aware, and they call repeatedly for change — a not-so-subtle slap at the Bush administration.

That's leaving young people in Chapel Hill, N.C., a long incubator for musical talent, weary and a little wary, even as the Vote for Change tour has bypassed their area.

Political music now, they say, is less formative and more reactionary.

At its core, though, popular music's place as an outpost of unconventional ideas has been constant across the last 70 years, said Matthew Levin, an arts and culture professor of political science and communication studies at the University of Southern California.

But setting this election cycle apart, he said, is a centralization of politicization. That is, where politically groundbreaking anti-war bands in the 1960s trekked across the country in a jumble of activism, the MoveOn.org concerts today are choreographed on a national level.

Back at Chapel Hill, musician Stephen Levin, 28, said most college students are so liberal that political "preaching to the choir" isn't terribly effective.

FAA: Space explorers must be safe

Budding industry waits for regulation

By JOHN ANTICZAK
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Thrill seekers are plunging down six figures to ride rockets that haven't even been built yet, and a new airline called Virgin Galactic promises to be up and soaring in the next three years. Still, the budding space tourism industry faces myriad safety concerns — in the sky and on the ground — that must be resolved before any paying passenger takes off.

The rules that will govern the industry in the United States remain under discussion between federal regulators and rocket developers, and legislation is still before Congress.

The pace of negotiations and the ultimate shape of the regulations could determine whether the sky-high enthusiasm for space tourism grows or wanes, especially among investors.

Federal Aviation Administration chief Marion C. Blakey this week visited Xcor Aerospace, a rocket developer just down the Mojave Airport flight line from SpaceShipOne's home. She talked of partnership with the new industry and said it was important for the United States to be the world leader.

She made clear, however, that broad safety issues are the agency's topic No. 1.

"Our first concern will be the safety of the uninvolved public, making sure that as this grows and develops that we're doing everything we can to protect the folks on the ground, to make sure that the people who go into space understand the risks," she said.



Jeff Greason, center, president of Xcor Aerospace, tours the Xcor hangar at the Mojave Airport in California on Sunday with FAA officials Marion C. Blakey, right, and Patti Grace Smith.

"It will be a risky business for many years to come, no doubt."

The FAA for several years has been studying what the average passenger will face from G-force and psychological factors, and what type of medical fitness he or she will require, Blakey said.

Xcor President Jeff Greason, who hopes to build a rocket plane that can fly off a runway, said talks with the government have come far but there is much work ahead on the regulatory front.

Greason said he is in total agreement that it is necessary for regulators to ensure that potential passengers have adequate information. But he sees a "critical distinction" between the risk faced by the uninvolved public and that faced by those who want to fly into space.

The involved passenger, the people who are deliberately putting their lives and treasure at risk to open the space frontier they've dreamed of their entire lives, as long as they know what they're getting into, I think they have to be allowed to take that risk," he said.

Genesis samples arrive at space lab

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Thousands of samples from the Genesis space capsule have arrived at the Johnson Space Center, where the project's curator must assemble a giant jigsaw puzzle that could hold clues to the origins of the solar system.

Wafers on five collector panels that broke into thousands of pieces when the capsule slammed into Earth last month secured samples of atoms and ions from solar wind.

There are almost 3,000 tracking numbers for containers holding pieces of the wafers, Eileen Stansbery, assistant director of astronomical research, said Wednesday.

The containers are stored in a locked room at the space center until scientists can figure out how to rid them of contaminants.

They will eventually be moved to a clean lab, where they will be doled out to researchers. A majority of the atoms and ions will be studied by one machine, then apply and are approved by an external advisory board.

"We did go out, collect a piece of the sun, bring it back and we do have it here," Stansbery said.

He reckons he's famous now



Billy Bob Thornton received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Thursday. The award-winning writer, actor, director and musician — who also has a two-week-old daughter — has appeared in such films as "Sling Blade," "Pushing Tin" and this month's "Friday Night Lights."

Parent groups sue states over unequal child-custody laws

By JOE MANDAK
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — John Clifton lost custody of 6-year-old Andrew when he and his wife divorced. Now, father and son spend two weekends a month together and try to talk on the phone nearly every day.

"I hate it," Clifton said of the limited contact. "He asks me all the time, 'When am I going to come over?' When can I see you?"

Clifton, of Pittsburgh, contends some 25 million parents in the United States — 22 million fathers and 3 million mothers — are just like him, not allowed to live with their children because of unfair custody laws.

Last week, Clifton became part of a nationwide effort to reform those statutes when he signed on as lead plaintiff in a federal lawsuit against the state of Pennsylvania.

Led by the Indiana Civil Rights Council, like-minded groups such as the American Coalition for Fathers and Children plan to sue all 50 states and U.S. territories. At least 40 suits have already been filed, according to the council.

The lawsuits use a wide range of constitutional grounds to argue that a child's natural parents both have an equal right to custody, but that right for one parent is too

often trumped by a well-sounding but ill-defined legal standard known as "the best interest of the child."

Generally, children's advocates and family lawyers say, courts find it is in the child's best interest to give physical custody to the primary caregiver. Living with one parent minimizes shuffling a child — especially a younger one — between homes.

"As children progress [in maturity] they're better able to handle those types of situations," said

for a different arrangement. Legal custody, which gives both parents a say in issues such as religion, health and education, can be shared equally even when physical custody is not.

Many experts say legislating a 50-50 standard is a bad idea. "This is one more chance attempt to say that every case that goes into court should start with the assumption that it's 50-50 time — even if they haven't been putting in 50-50 time before that," said

Lynne Gold-Bikin, a family law attorney and past chair of the American Bar Association's family law section.

"And why do they want 50-50 [custody]? Some people want it because they know they can reduce the support they pay to their wives" as a result.

"That may be, but advocates say it's discriminatory not to equally protect both parents' full rights until and unless the facts show that one parent has forfeited them.

"The many are suffering because of the reputation of a few — the deadbeat dads and deadbeat moms," said Tom Howse, president of the Indiana Civil Rights Council. "Each parent has certain rights and the states have been taking away the rights of one parent."

"The many are suffering because of the reputation of a few — the deadbeat dads and deadbeat moms."

Tom Howse
Indiana Civil Rights Council

Chris Zawisza, director of the Child Advocacy Clinic at the University of Memphis Law School.

The lawsuits seek \$1 million in damages for any plaintiffs who may sign on to each class action, meaning the potential damages run into the trillions nationwide. But what the groups really want are changes in the laws, such as a bill being proposed for Pennsylvania by state Rep. Thomas Stevenson.

Stevenson's bill would set a "presumptive standard" that physical custody should be split 50-50 unless one parent can prove that there's a good reason

N.C. execution

RALEIGH, N.C. — A death row inmate was executed early Friday for the 1992 rape and slaying of a 7-year-old girl.

Sammy Crystal Perkins, 51, died after the Supreme Court issued two orders Thursday to clear the way. By a 5-4 vote, justices turned down a defense request to leave a stay in place so Perkins could contest the state's lethal injection execution method. The decision was unanimous to reject a defense request to reverse state court rulings against Perkins on the issue of whether improper evidence was allowed during his trial.

Perkins' lawyers also asked Gov. Mike Easley to spare their client's life, arguing his trial was marred by jury discussions of the case before formal deliberations began.

They also said Perkins' mental illness wasn't fully presented to the jury because of poor testimony by a defense expert.

Etheridge has cancer

LOS ANGELES — Singer Melissa Etheridge has been diagnosed with breast cancer and has canceled upcoming tour dates to undergo treatment, her publicist said Thursday.

Etheridge, 43, will undergo surgery and a "speedy and complete recovery" is expected by her doctor, publicist Marcel Pariseau said in a statement.

The cancer was detected early and Etheridge has been receiving treatment, Pariseau said.

"I am fortunate to be under a wonderful doctor's care and thankful that this was caught early," Etheridge said in the statement. "I am looking forward to a quick and full recovery."

Etheridge and actress Tammy Lyn Michaels held a commitment ceremony in September 2003.

The musician, who lives in Los Angeles, shares custody of a daughter and son with former partner Julie Cypher, who had the children through artificial insemination using a sperm donation from rocker David Crosby.

Calif. ammunition bill

LOS ANGELES — California's attorney general said Thursday he's pushing for a law requiring handgun ammunition sold in the state to carry a microscopic code that would enable law enforcement to trace bullets back to the buyer.

Attorney General Bill Lockyer told The Associated Press after speaking at a gun violence conference in Los Angeles that he has spoken with state lawmakers about taking up a bill next year to create the system.

The statewide tracking system would catalog serial numbers on guns and catalog serial numbers in a database along with information about buyers, who would show identification when making a purchase.

"It's a good tool to fight gangs and other criminal activity," Lockyer said.

California would be the first state in the country to have such a system, said Randy Ross, director of the Justice Department's firearms division.

From The Associated Press



An SUV carrying Martha Stewart arrives at Alderson Federal Prison Camp in Alderson, W.Va., on Friday. Stewart reported to the prison about 6:15 a.m. to serve her sentence, the federal Prisons Bureau said.

Stewart reports to prison

Homemaking guru is looking ahead to 'brighter days'

The Associated Press

ALDERSON, W.Va. — Martha Stewart reported to prison before sunrise Friday to begin serving a five-month sentence for lying about a stock sale, slipping unnoticed past waiting supporters and reporters.

The celebrity homemaking guru on her Web site she was looking forward to returning to work in March and enjoying "many brighter days ahead."

Stewart, 63, was convicted last March of lying to investigators about why she sold stock in a bio-

tech drug maker in December 2001, just before its price plunged. She was allowed to remain free pending appeal but asked to begin serving her time anyway, saying she wanted to reclaim her life.

"While I am away, my updates here will be less frequent, if not altogether impossible," Stewart said in a letter posted on her Web site. "But please know this change is only an unfortunate reflection of my current circumstances, and in no way diminishes my commitment to my life's work or to the friends, colleagues, customers and supporters who make it possible."

Following her prison term, Stewart must serve five months of home confinement.

Like all new inmates, Stewart was photographed, fingerprinted

and strip searched. Her personal items were inventoried, said Traci Billingsley, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons in Washington.

She was issued clothing that includes khaki-colored trousers, a button-down shirt and black steel-toed boots, as well as a change of bedding and set of towels.

After being interviewed by prison staff and briefed on the institution's rules, new inmates undergo a two-week orientation, during which work assignments are made.

While in prison, Stewart will forgo five months of her \$900,000 yearly base pay from her company, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

Behind bars, Stewart will be eligible for jobs that pay 12 cents to 40 cents an hour.

T-shirt maker releases 'Camp Cupcake' design

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A T-shirt maker is cashing in on Martha Stewart's woes, just in time for the domestic diva's incarceration at a prison nicknamed Camp Cupcake.

Dallas-based B.A. Hobo Co. has created two designs based on the Alderson Federal Prison Camp where Stewart will serve five months for lying to federal investigators about a stock sale. Stewart is

to report to the women's prison Friday.

One shirt's slogan reads, "Camp Cupcake: Where there is no cherry on top."

The shirt also lists "activities" at the prison — "decorative license plate making" and "good cellkeeping." The other shirt's slogan is "Camp Cupcake."

From The Associated Press

Lava dome continues to grow in volcano crater

BY GENE JOHNSON

The Associated Press

MOUNT ST. HELENS, Wash. — Part of the lava dome in Mount St. Helens' crater has risen 50 to 100 feet since Tuesday but earthquake activity remained low, indicating molten rock is moving upward with little resistance, scientists said.

The south side of the dome has been rising for the past week, about 250 feet so far, and is now nearly as tall as the dome's 1,000-foot summit, U.S. Geological Survey geologist Tom Pierson said Thursday.

Despite the swelling, scientists said there was no reason to raise the alert level around the 8,364-foot volcano.

At worst, an eruption could shoot ash 15

miles into the air or higher, but there is no indication that any eruption is imminent or that one would be powerful enough to threaten lives or property, said Larry Mastin, a USGS expert in the physics of volcano eruptions.

There's no way to tell when magma — molten rock — might reach the surface, USGS volcanologist Jake Lowenstein told a news conference at the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver, Wash.

Earthquake activity remained relatively low early Friday. On Thursday the volcano occasionally vented steam as water trickled down onto hot rocks, Lowenstein said.

Since Sept. 23, thousands of small earthquakes have shaken the peak in the Cascade Range. Each day from Friday through Tues-

W.Va. town busy, excited while waiting for Martha

BY APRIL VITELLO

The Associated Press

ALDERSON, W.Va. — As soon as Betty Alderson heard Martha Stewart was coming to town, she got the ball rolling on a money-making deal.

Alderson, who runs a clothing store and gift shop, ordered dozens of shirts with the slogan, "West Virginia Living, it's a good thing," a reference to Stewart's catch phrase. Another style says, "Alderson, West Virginia. A great place to visit."

"We [West Virginians] have teeth and shoes and we are very excited about the media attention," Alderson said.

"It's just exciting to tell the story."

The story is Stewart, the decorating diva who will spend the next five months in the Alderson Federal Prison Camp after she and her broker were convicted in March of lying about a stock sale.

Most townspeople agree the attention is good for businesses and the state.

"The response has been surprising," said Annette Kellison, who manages the Dinner Bell restaurant.

"This has been a great experience."

Kellison has spent the past week delivering food to reporters and photographers camped out at the prison entrance and had several buffet requests for Friday.

Jim Whitlock, who manages the only motel in Alderson, said, "We've had a few media people stay here, but it's always busy on the weekend."

While some are profiting from the experience, others are inconvenienced and don't understand why Stewart is such big news.

"We do a lot of deliveries at the prison, and it has been hectic," said hardware store worker Skip Thompson.

"The town is just not used to that."

Becky Pence, who lives on the road where television trucks are lined up, said she nearly hit one news person who was standing in the road Thursday.

day, Mount St. Helens spewed clouds of steam mixed with small amounts of local volcanic ash.

An hour-long blast Tuesday morning was the largest, sending a thick gray cloud thousands of feet in the air and dusting some areas northeast of the southwest Washington volcano with gritty ash.

Seismic activity began diminishing afterward, and geologists said the most likely scenario now is for weeks or months of occasional steam blasts and possibly some eruptions of fresh volcanic rock.

On Wednesday scientists downgraded the "volcano alert" to a "volcano advisory," indicating the probability of a life-threatening eruption had decreased significantly since Saturday, when thousands of people were evacuated from the mountain.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



DICK LOCHER/Tribune Media Services



CHARLIE DANIEL/Scraps Howard



JACK OHMAN/Tribune Media Services



JOHN ROSE/Scraps Howard



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IN THE WORLD

Blasts at Egyptian resorts kill at least 26

The Associated Press

TAHA, Egypt — Israel's intelligence chief on Friday blamed al-Qaida for the bombings at resorts in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula that Israeli officials said killed at least 26 people, including many celebrating a Jewish holiday, and wounded more than 100.

Israeli and Egyptian rescuers dug through the debris of the Taba Hilton — the site of the biggest blast, where at least four people were believed still buried after the bomb sheared off the outer rooms of a 10-story wing. Two smaller blasts quickly followed in Ras Shitan, a camping area near the town of Nuweiba, 35 miles south of Taba.

The Israeli intelligence chief, Maj. Gen. Aharon Zeevi-Farkash, blamed the bombings on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, at an emergency Cabinet meeting. Egyptian government spokesman Magdy Rady said it was too early to speculate.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office said he and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak agreed by telephone that they must fight terrorism together.

At the Hilton, Israeli military rescuer Gefan Nativ told The Associated Press it was unlikely any more survivors would be found.

"I don't believe anyone is still alive," about 10 years old, who was dead, Nativ said.

Sinai's resorts were particularly crowded Thursday, the last day of the weeklong Jewish festival of Sukkot, when thousands of Israelis vacation there.

The most devastating of the bombings was at the Hilton, where a car laden with explosives crashed into the lobby and detonated, an Israeli official said on condition of anonymity. There were reports of a second or third



Right: Israeli rescue workers search for victims in the debris of the Hilton Hotel in Taba, Egypt on Friday following an explosion Thursday night, in which at least 27 Israelis were killed and more than 160 were wounded, officials and media reports said. Left: A child injured in the blast is treated at the hospital of the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat on Friday.

explosion in the compound, one of which may have been a suicide bomber.

South Sinai Gov. Mustafa Afifi said there were three car bombs — one at the Hilton and two at Ras Shitan. He added that an Egyptian security guard got suspicious and tried to stop one of them at the camping area.

At the Hilton, the burned-out shell of a vehicle rested inside a meeting room.

Sheets and blankets tied to the Hilton's balconies showed the frantic efforts by guests to flee. Stairs of a fire escape were twisted and perpendicular to the building. Business cards, CDs, bottles and cans, and personal items were scattered around. Burned cars sat outside the hotel.

There were varying reports on casualties.



AP photos

Israel Defense Forces Home Front commander Yair Naveh told Israeli radio that 26 people were confirmed dead, 24 of them in the Taba blast. The Egyptian Interior Ministry said 22 died.

An official at Taba hospital, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AP 24 people were killed, including five Israelis, seven Egyptians and the rest foreigners whose nationalities were not immediately determined. Most of the deaths were at the Hilton.

More than 100 people were injured, with one report saying as many as 160, and at least two Britons were among the wounded. The Russian Foreign Ministry said an elderly Russian woman was among the dead and eight Russians were wounded.

Two American employees of the U.S. Embassy in Israel were

slightly injured in the Taba bombing, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Friday.

Egypt's tourism minister, Ahmed El Maghraby, indicated the attacks were political: "Look at the timing. Look at the choice of place."

He didn't elaborate, but other officials drew links to the Israeli military operation against the Palestinians in the neighboring Gaza Strip, where more than 80 Palestinians have been killed in an Israeli offensive that began Sept. 29.

Israel's deputy defense minister, Ze'ev Boim, told Israel's Army Radio that Palestinian militants apparently were not involved and he suspected al-Qaida affiliates: "On the face of things, this is different from what we are familiar with from Palestinian terrorist groups."

Thousands of tourists rush home to Israel

The Associated Press

EILAT, Israel — Thousands of frightened Israeli tourists rushed back home Friday from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula after car bombs ripped through two Egyptian beach resorts crowded with Israeli visitors.

Many Israeli tourists complained bitterly about the Egyptian authorities, who they said prevented tourists from leaving their hotels after the blasts and delayed them at the border.

However, Egyptian government spokesman Magdy Rady denied there were any delays in allowing the Israelis in.

"There was no such thing — no delay at all. Don't believe the Israelis," Rady said.

Yitzhak Chai, the manager of the Israeli side of the border crossing, said about 6,000 Israelis crossed back home Friday, and he believed another 6,000 Israeli tourists were still in the Sinai.

Thousands of Israelis were spending the weeklong Jewish holiday of Sukkot in the Sinai despite last month's warnings by the Israeli government there was a high probability of a terror attack on Israeli tourists in the area.

On Thursday night, bombs ripped through the Taba Hilton and at the Ras Shitan resort of beach huts.

Vicky Arazi, 30, a resident of Tel Aviv, said she usually does not pay attention to official warnings.

"There are always warnings, usually nothing happens," she said after crossing back into Israel at Taba. "This time something happened."

Kenyan environmental activist wins Nobel Peace Prize

BY DOUG MELLGREN

The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for her work as leader of the Green Belt Movement, which has sought to empower women, improve the environment and fight corruption in Africa for almost 30 years.

Maathai, Kenya's deputy environment minister, is the first African woman to win the prize, first awarded in 1901. She gained recent acclaim for a campaign planting 30 million trees to stave off deforestation.

Maathai, 64, learned about the award while campaigning to protect forests and distributing food to hungry constituents suffering from drought near her hometown of Nyeri in central Kenya.

"Many of the wars in Africa are fought over natural resources," she said. "Ensuring they are not

destroyed is a way of ensuring there is no conflict."

Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977 while head of the National Council of Women of Kenya. She abandoned a promising academic career as a biology professor to pursue her environment projects.

She said she made her decision to do so on a visit home to Nyeri, in the verdant highlands 60 miles north of Nairobi, after realizing that despite the fertility of the region, political and social problems were contributing to deforestation and the problems faced by women.

Maathai called winning the Nobel Peace Prize an "overwhelming experience."

With a record 140 nominations, the committee had a broad field to choose from, and speculation had focused on other candidates.

"We believe that Maathai is a strong voice speaking for the best forces in Africa to promote peace

and good living conditions on that continent," the Nobel committee said in its citation.

It was the first time the prize recognized work to preserve the environment. During the 2001 centennial anniversary of the prize, the committee said it wanted to widen the scope of the award, including honoring those who worked to improve the environment, as well as contributed to advancing peace worldwide.

Maathai is believed to have been the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate. She got a degree in biological sciences from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kan., in 1964. Previous winners from Africa include U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana, who shared the prize with the United Nations in 2001, and Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk, South Africa, in 1993.

The award, which includes \$1.3 million, is always presented on



AP

Kenyan environmental activist Wangari Maathai hands out grain to villagers on Friday in Iluvuru near Nyeri after she won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for her work as leader of the Green Belt Movement.

Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of its founder, Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel.

Maathai also was cited for stand-

ing up to Kenya's former government, led by President Daniel arap Moi for 24 years until he stepped down after elections in 2002.

Sierra Leone leads world in child mortality

BY GERALD NADLER
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — One in four children in Sierra Leone dies before age 5, and one in 10 in Iraq. Across the globe, poor care for newborns, malaria, diarrhea, malnutrition and even measles snuff out lives before a fifth birthday, according to a U.N. report released Friday.

The United Nations Children's Fund reported "alarmingly slow progress" on reducing child deaths. "One in 12 children worldwide doesn't make it to age 5, with

half of all under-5 deaths in sub-Saharan Africa.

"It is incredible that in an age of technological and medical marvels, child survival is so tenuous in so many places, especially for the poor and marginalized," said UNICEF director Carol Bellamy, launching the report.

Child mortality refers to the number of children who die before their fifth birthday, and is measured per 1,000 live births. In 2002, industrialized countries had 7 deaths per 1,000 births, while the poorest nations had 158 in every 1,000 births.

The UNICEF study is a report card on whether countries are fulfilling a goal adopted by world leaders at the U.N. Millennium Summit in 2000 which calls for child mortality to be reduced by two-thirds by 2015.

Iraq, which has lost two wars since 1991 and was under U.N. sanctions for over a decade, lost the most ground of any nation. It was the only country in the Middle East and North Africa where the child mortality rate increased from 1990 to 2002. One in 10 Iraqi children under 5 died in 2002,

while in 1990 the rate was one in 20.

In more than a third of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, child mortality rates have increased or stagnated, the report said.

The 10 countries with the most under-5 deaths since 2002 were Sierra Leone with 284 per 1,000 births, Niger 265, Angola 260, Afghanistan 257, Somalia 225, Haiti 222, Guinea-Bissau 211, Burkina Faso 202, and Congo 205.

Despite Afghanistan's tumultuous path in the last decade, it slightly reduced the number of deaths of the very young: 260 per

1,000 in 1990, to 257 in 2002, but it has a long way to go to reach the 2015 goal of 85 per 1,000 births.

Its rate was also far higher than other Asian countries. Pakistan had 107, India 93, and Sri Lanka the fewest number of under-5 deaths in Asia with 19 per 1,000, the study reported.

HIV/AIDS was a major obstacle in reducing the youth mortality.

Poor care for newborns is the single most prominent cause of child deaths, while malaria accounts for more deaths than HIV/AIDS, the study said. Malnutrition contributed to more than half of the deaths.

Pitcairn Island defendant pleads guilty to 3 charges

The Associated Press

PITCAIRN ISLAND — A tractor driver pleaded guilty Thursday to sex crimes on Pitcairn Island, home to descendants of the 18th-century Bounty mutineers, but he pleaded innocent to a further 12 charges.

Dave Brown, 49, pleaded guilty to three charges of indecent assault at his trial on this remote British territory in the Pacific.

But Brown said he was in love and in a consensual relationship with another girl he was accused of indecently assaulting. He told the court that the girl said she enjoyed having sex and wanted to continue their intimate relationship.

Brown pleaded innocent to two charges of gross indecency and 10 remaining counts of indecent assault, alleged to have taken place around 20 years ago.

Since investigations into sex abuse on the island got under way three years ago, the alleged victim has withdrawn her complaint against Brown and prosecutors are basing their charges on a police interview in which the defendant admits having sex with her while she was underage.

Brown also denies sexually assaulting a 5-year-old and her 6-year-old friend.

The trials, held under British law before New Zealand judges, are expected to take six weeks on this island of 47 people.



Serbian President Boris Tadic addresses media in front of the presidency building in Belgrade on Thursday. Tadic reiterated that he does not support the idea of an independent Kosovo. Political turmoil in Serbia continues over a clash between the pro-Western President Tadic, and the conservative prime minister Vojislav Kostunica.

Serbian impeachment drive mullered

By KATARINA KRATOVAC
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Amid political turmoil between Serbia's pro-Western president and conservative prime minister, former President Slobodan Milosevic's Socialist Party was deciding Friday whether to back a presidential impeachment drive.

Socialist leader Ivica Dacic said the party's board was likely to support the ultranationalist Serbian Radical Party — which together with the Socialists ruled Serbia under Milosevic — in a drive to impeach President Boris Tadic.

Tadic's opponents want to oust him from office for calling on Kosovo's Serbs to vote in the province's Oct. 23 elections.

"We fundamentally back our colleagues from the Radical Party,"

Dacic told The Associated Press. "It's important that the impeachment demand is discussed in parliament."

The Socialists' decision would be announced later Friday, Dacic said.

The impeachment drive followed Tadic's appeal this week to Kosovo Serbs to take part in the upcoming vote so the Serb minority could retain a political role in the province now run by a U.N. mission and NATO-led peacekeepers.

Tadic's appeal outraged the Radicals, who alleged the president violated the constitution in his appeal.

It also pitted Tadic against conservative Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica, whose Cabinet, along with the influential Serbian Orthodox Church, has backed a planned Kosovo Serb boycott of the elections.

For an impeachment demand to be discussed in Serbia's 250-member parliament, 94 lawmakers' signatures are needed. The Radicals have 82 lawmakers. The Socialists, with 22 lawmakers, would ensure a parliament debate.

But two-thirds of lawmakers would have to vote in favor, along with half of Serbia's 6 million voters in a nationwide referendum.

Dacic conceded that Tadic's impeachment was unlikely since pro-democracy groups hold a majority in parliament.

Radmila Trajkovic, a Kosovo Serb politician, said Tadic has "weakened the Serb community in Kosovo" and claimed his appeal would benefit ethnic Albanian separatist demands for an independent Kosovo.

Pro-Western officials in Belgrade have backed Tadic.

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Singaporeans ready to set records

SINGAPORE — From the fastest backward taking to stuffing the most hamburgers into their mouths, 20 Singaporeans are gearing up for a slew of wacky feats this weekend they hope will land them in the Guinness Book of World Records.

"Who can slurp down a bottle of tomato ketchup in the fastest time?" blared the news release announcing the two-day event. The current record is 33 seconds for a 14-ounce bottle.

Apart from stuffing burgers and talking backward, other events to be held over Saturday and Sunday include:

- The fastest time to push an orange with one's nose over a mile.
- The fastest time to eat three cream crackers.
- The longest time a paper airplane can remain airborne.
- Doing the most push-ups in a minute.

Another 'Potter' character to die

LONDON — "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling said Friday that one of her characters will not survive the next book in her series about the young wizard.

Asked on her official Web site whether she planned to kill off any more characters, Rowling replied, "Yes, sorry." But she refused to identify that character.

The sixth book in the series, "Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince," is due to be published next year.

Potter himself is safe, at least for now. Rowling has previously said her teenage hero will survive until the seventh and final book in the series, but has refused to say whether he will reach adulthood.

From The Associated Press

Toeing the party line

KY LOUISVILLE — A Kentucky congressional candidate copied his answers to an AARP survey from materials distributed by the National Republican Congressional Committee, his spokesman says.

Geoff Davis submitted answers identical to those of at least five GOP candidates from California, Florida, Nebraska and Georgia, to questions about Social Security, health-care costs and prescription drugs.

"We didn't see anything that we disagreed with," said spokesman Justin Brasell, adding that Davis had received permission to use the material which was posted online as part of the AARP's voter guides.

The Democratic candidate, former TV personality Nick Clooney, said through a spokesman that Davis apparently missed the point of the "honor code" at West Point, Davis' alma mater.

Head of the opposition

IN BEDFORD — Kerra Fowler said it's opposition to President Bush has gone to her head, thanks to the highest bidder.

She offered up on eBay her shaved skull for an anti-Bush message and received a tattoo of a large W with a cowboy hat and a red slash after a bid of \$103.50.

The 29-year-old mother of four said she placed her ad with an opening bid of a penny after seeing two others offering to sell head space for tattoos backing Democratic candidate John Kerry.

"One wanted 10 grand and the other, \$30,000," she said. "So I thought, that isn't right, to say you believe in something and then charge \$30,000. I thought that was audacious."

Fowler said the winning bidder asked her not to get the tattoo.

Fowler accepted the money, gave half to the tattoo artist and used the rest to pay part of a bill, buy a gift for her children and beer.

Upscale sandwich

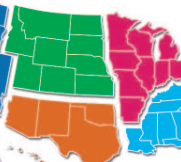
PA PHILADELPHIA — The traditional cheesesteak has gone precariously upscale at one new restaurant, where the chopped steak and melted cheese standard includes goose liver and truffles — and costs \$100.

Barclay Prime owner Stephen Starr admits the haute cheesesteak is a marketing ploy for his steakhouse, which opened Tuesday.

And he thinks it'll sell. Served with a small bottle of champagne, Barclay Prime's cheesesteak is made of sliced Kobe beef, melted Taleggio cheese, shaved truffles, sautéed foie gras, caramelized onions and heirloom shaved tomatoes on a homemade brioche roll brushed with truffle butter and squirted with homemade mustard.

Interstate child support

CO DENVER — The state Supreme Court cleared the way for a Pueblo woman to seek child support from a man in Texas. The court said since Susan Malwitz left her common-law husband over domestic violence concerns, she could sue in Colorado. The father's lawyer said now any out-of-state woman could sue based on "filmy" domestic violence charges.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Oswald site may open

TX DALLAS — The city may eventually make the site where Lee Harvey Oswald was shot to death in the basement of the former Dallas police headquarters open to the public.

In the famous photo taken of the shooting, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy is seen bucking against a bullet fired by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby. But the site has been closed to the public for decades.

With plans in the works to redevelop the old City Hall complex, visitors may be able to go to the gloomy basement sally port in two or three years. They also may be able to visit the fifth-floor jail cell where Oswald and later Ruby were held in 1963.

"It's been a site people have been interested in for years," interim City Manager Mary Suhm told The Dallas Morning News for its Wednesday editions. "We need to be sure to facilitate those who want to see it. It completes the history."

House of words

MS BILOXI — A California investor has paid \$820,000 at auction for a Biloxi home named for Civil War chaplain Abraham J. Ryan, who was known as the poet laureate of the Confederacy.

The previous owners, Dr. Jefferson McKenney and Rosanne McK-

enney, are missionaries in Honduras. Funds raised from the sale were to be invested in Hospicio de Loma de Luz, which the McKenneys founded in that country.

The property, which the McKenneys bought in 1989, is one of Biloxi's best-known landmarks because of the tall palm tree that grows through its front steps. The house was built in 1840 and 1841 by Judge W.C. Wade but is named after a later tenant.

Ryan, who died in 1886, became a folk hero of the post-Civil War period with his poetry admired in both the North and the South. A collection of his work published in 1879 went through 40 editions and earned as much as \$1.6 million before 1920.

Better than a 401(k)

CT BRIDGEPORT — An aging, cancer-stricken mother planned to rob and kill a cocaine dealer and kidnap the son of a businessman to shore up his "retirement," prosecutors said.

Recovering from heart surgery and suffering from colon cancer, 71-year-old Victor Riccitelli went to court Tuesday seeking his release on bail while he awaits trial on racketeering charges.

However, U.S. Magistrate Judge Holly Fitzsimmons ordered him held without bail after prosecutors, who allege Riccitelli is a member of the New York-based Gambino crime family, played audio tapes they said showed him to be violent and too dangerous to release.

In one conversation with another man, prosecutors said, Riccitelli outlined a plan to kill a drug dealer and steal his cocaine stash. "That'll be our [expletive] retirement!" Riccitelli said on the recording.

Fake doctor charges

TX DALLAS — A man arrested for allegedly posing as a doctor offered free gynecological services and set up an office in a self-storage complex, authorities said.

The room looked like a real medical office, with numerous pieces of medical equipment, said Bridget Eyster, an assistant district attorney for Dallas County. Three women who reported their visits to the man's office were reluctant to discuss details, the prosecutor's office said.

Thomas Patrick Remo, 50, remained in custody Wednesday in lieu of \$7,500 bond on three counts of practicing medicine without a license. He used the names Dr. Jim Patrick and Dr. Brian Jones and his office was in Cedar Hill, Eyster said.

Long wait for rescue

OH PORTSMOUTH — A man who fell from a bridge and then spent 2½ days stuck in mud on a riverbank was rescued Tuesday evening, authorities said.

William Purdy, 50, who has Parkinson's disease, had been missing since Saturday morning, his family said. Passers-by spotted him near the bridge on the edge of town where few people go walking.

It took rescuers about an hour to free Purdy, who was "cold, talking and not tickled" by anyone found him," Portsmouth Police Detective Lynn Brewer said.



A really big pumpkin

Students from Jefferson Park Elementary School in Clinton, Mo., rush over to get a closer view of the large 512-pound Atlantic giant pumpkin at the Johnson Plants & Pumpkins Farms in Kansas City, Mo. This is the largest pumpkin grown at the Johnson farm this year.



Bright lights, big city

As a storm front moved into Austin, Texas, the city skyline lit up as multiple strikes hit some of the tallest buildings.



Birds of a feather

Pelicans have begun migrating through Iowa in recent weeks, a bit earlier than usual because of wet, cold nesting conditions in Canada. Here, a flock huddles on the Des Moines River below the Scott Street dam in Des Moines.

Keeping fit

Alicia Taylor-Byers walks along the Delaware and Raritan Canal in Princeton, N.J.



Vegas showgirls The Encore Dancers perform for judge Ray Desmond during auditions for the Las Vegas Senior Idol competition at the Las Vegas Senior Center. The audition attracted approximately 60 contestants, 20 of whom will advance to the Senior Idol competition in November.



Swing state Olivia Morgan, 4, right, joins Phoenicia Jones, 7, on the swings in East Tupelo, Miss.



Up, up and away A Russian Thunder Yak-54, flown by Eric Beard, performs stunts at the Inyokern Airport in Calif., during the Kern County Air Show and Aerospace and Science Expo.



Fall in Pennsylvania A lone horse eats grass in a field as the fall trees glow in the background in Indiana County, Pa.

Pet probation

VT BRATTLEBORO — A Marlboro woman convicted of neglecting domesticated animals could be prohibited from owning pets for nearly two years.

A jury convicted Michelle Eldredge, 36, late last week after spending more than four hours of deliberation. Jurors heard evidence during a two-day trial. Judge John P. Wesley sentenced Eldredge to five to six months, but suspended the prison time.

While serving her sentence, Eldredge was ordered not to possess animals, unless permitted by her probation officer.

Sue Caviola, shelter manager and humane officer at the Windham County Humane Society, investigated a neighbor's complaint that Eldredge had a host of malnourished animals. Upon further investigation with Windham County Sheriff's deputies, Caviola uncovered the partially decomposed carcasses of two goats and a rabbit and eight greyhounds, one husky, four cats and a goat, which all appeared to be suffering from severe neglect and malnutrition.

Cop's bad misfire

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — A police officer grievously wounded last month after responding to an early morning disturbance was shot by his partner, officials said Tuesday.

Officer William McGarry remains unconscious and on a ventilator from his wounds.

His partner, Officer Stevens Gelu, fired his 9 mm handgun three to five times, aiming for the suspect, who wasn't hit, said police spokesman Sgt. Andy Pallen.

Gelu hasn't been charged and the case was turned over to the Broward State Attorney's Office, The Miami Herald reported. Police said earlier that Gelu might have shot his partner by accident.

The suspect was charged with aggravated assault for waving his gun at a police officer.

Assault over animals

HI WAILUKU — A local comedian was acquitted of felony charges that he assaulted and threatened animal-control officers at his Maui home last year.

Shawn Kauli Hill, 38, was accused of assaulting the two officers last November when they went to his home in Kula to impound his five dogs after Hill stopped payment on a \$100 check to pay for their licenses.

Hill, who's better known as comedian Bu La'a, is running for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the Nov. 2 election.

Maui Humane Society officials said Monday's acquittal raises questions.

Hill was acquitted in August of charges he abused his wife in January.

Unauthorized handgun

CA LOS ANGELES — The police department's anti-terrorism chief was not authorized to carry the type of handgun that airport authorities seized during a routine search of his baggage last month, police said.

John Miller, an ABC-TV reporter before he was hired for the security job, was off duty and traveling to New York to tape a farewell mes-

sage for Barbara Walters, his retiring former "20/20" co-host, when officials discovered a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson handgun in his bag.

Miller told officials he forgot the gun was in his bag and he was allowed to continue to New York without the weapon. But police said Friday that Miller was not authorized to carry the Smith & Wesson because of a paperwork error.

Police spokeswoman Sgt. Catherine Plows said the paperwork glitch would soon be cleared up, and police are continuing to investigate. Federal authorities are also investigating.

Name change rejected

AZ PHOENIX — Arizona's geographic landmarks unanimously rejected a proposal Wednesday to change Lake Powell's name to Glen Canyon Reservoir.

The Colorado woman who proposed the change said the lake's name is misleading, because it gives the impression that the man-made reservoir is a natural body of water. The lake, formed by a dam on the Colorado River, straddles the Arizona-Utah line.

Opponents said the proposal was the first step in trying to decommission Glen Canyon Dam and drain Lake Powell, a prospect that they said could affect water supplies in several western states.

Slicing prediction

NV RENO — The margin of error in the latest presidential poll is pretty wide — about 50 yards wide.

Golfers in northern Nevada have been recording their left and right — as part of a very unscientific attempt to predict the outcome of the November election.

More than a dozen sports and travel writers played two holes at nine courses Tuesday, taking care to chart how many of their shots sliced to the right and how many hooked to the left.

If the final results are any indication of the real election, spokesman Phil Weidinger said, the Kerry-Edwards ticket will ride to the White House on the strength of the left-leaning vote that was evident at the promotional event.

Bad look for beaches?

FL MIRAMAR BEACH — A couple of the Florida Panhandle's famously white beaches are getting a tan.

Tan sand is being trucked in to shore up areas eroded by Hurricane Ivan, darkening sugary white beaches and angering locals displeased with the new look.

"We've got a lovely white beach and it's criminal to contaminate it," said Dan Tomasek, a member of the homeowners association at Costa Del Sol condominiums, one of the properties in Walton County where the darker sand is being used.

Darker sand is being allowed as an emergency measure to save homes and other buildings that might collapse if another storm hits, said county beach activities coordinator Ken Wilde.

The county has issued about half a dozen permits for the darker sand because it is cheaper and easier to get, Wilde said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

FACES



Carly Schroeder, 13, wasn't sure about her role in the R-rated "Mean Creek," but it was smooth sailing.

ROBERT CAPLIN/LAT/MP

A cruel irony for 'Mean Creek' actress

BY SUSAN KING
Los Angeles Times

CHOLLYWOOD arly Schroeder's friends have been teasing the 13-year-old actress that she needs to be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian to see her latest film, "Mean Creek."

The harrowing R-rated youth drama, which won the Humanitas Award at the Sundance Film Festival, deals with a revenge prank that goes wrong. Schroeder's Millie is the only girl among the group of teenage boys who embark on a "Deliver-

ance"-style river trip that turns into tragedy.

"I don't get how I am too young to see my own movie," says the lanky blond actress. "It's crazy."

Schroeder admits she was hesitant to do the movie when she first read the script because there was so much "cussing in it and there was pot smoking." But after she "slept on it," Schroeder decided to do the film "because it does have an important message that a lot of movies try and hide."

Being the only girl and the youngest by two years in the cast, Schroeder says she was "pampered" by two of her co-stars,

Ryan Kelley and Trevor Morgan. They even took her to her first R-rated movie, "Freddy vs. Jason."

"I am not quite sure I needed to see it," Schroeder says, laughing. "I was shaking through the entire thing."

The Indiana native has been acting since she was 5.

"I was seen on a Shake 'n Bake commercial by Kin Shriner, who played my TV dad on 'Port Charles.' He said, 'That's the girl I want to play my daughter.' My mother didn't want to go to California because all of our family was in Indiana."

But Schroeder persuaded her mom to let her audition. "I said, 'Mom, how often

do people get flown to California to go to an audition?' I am glad she listened to me."

She spent 7½ years on the ABC soap, "I was America's sweetheart on the show," says Schroeder, who also appeared on Disney's "Lizzie McGuire" comedy series.

The eighth-grader admits she's obsessed with the reality show genre. "My favorite is 'Road Rules X-Treme,' which is on MTV. I like 'Fear Factor.' It's pretty cool."

And she has just finished working with a New York writer to develop a children's reality series about dream jobs. "I am not quite sure what the title is," she says. "We are hoping to pitch it in 2005."

OutKast leads pack in MTV nominations

Hip-hop group OutKast has a leading five nominations for the 2004 MTV Europe Music Awards, followed by Usher, with four nominations.

The awards will be presented Nov. 18 at the Tor di Valle Hippodrome in Rome.

Beyonce, Britney Spears, Anastacia, Jay-Z, Maroon 5, Black Eyed Peas and Franz Ferdinand have three nominations each, organizers said Wednesday.

Performers at the awards ceremony will include the Beastie Boys and Eminem, who will present his new single, "Just Lose It," from the upcoming album "Encore."

McDonald's, Destiny's Child team up

McDonald's Corp. has a new music partner: Destiny's Child.

The fast-food company announced Wednesday that the R&B group will play an integral role in its "I'm lovin' it" ad campaign, which kicked off last year with Justin Timberlake in a starring role.

McDonald's said it will sponsor the group's 2005 world-wide tour and feature the trio in new commercials and special restaurant merchandising. Destiny's Child also will make appearances on behalf of Ronald Mc-

Donald House Charities and other children's causes.

"We're lovin' the chance to work with McDonald's and know that together we'll create lots of fun and cool surprises," said Beyonce Knowles of Destiny's Child.

Hall of Fame to rock out in June

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a four-night music festival.

The rock hall, located alongside Lake Erie, plans to bring more than 100 bands to town for the festival June 8-11 in partnership with the CMJ (College Media Journal) Network.

"This will be a catalyst to draw a lot of people to Cleveland," said Terry Stewart, president and chief executive officer of the rock hall.

Musical acts from across the United States and abroad will perform at the rock hall and area venues. The rock hall expects the festival to draw up to 20,000 people.

Moore appearing to back Kerry

Nine thousand tickets have been sold for Michael Moore's upcoming appearance at the University of Arizona, organizers said.

Moore, the director of "Fahrenheit 9/11," will appear at the university Monday. Tickets have sold for \$5 each.

Fernando Assocido, director of the Speakers Board of the Associated Students of the University of Arizona, said Wednesday the ticket sales will cover the filmmaker's

\$27,500 speaking fee, rental of McKale Center and other expenses.

Moore, a supporter of Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, is touring the country and imploring "slackers" who usually don't vote to head to the polls this year.

Republicans at the college have petitioned the student government to host a pro-Bush speaker of equal celebrity before the Nov. 2 election.

Manila welcomes 'Idol' finalist

"American Idol" finalist Jasmine Trias arrived in Manila to a rousing welcome from fans and media jostling at the airport to get a glimpse of the 17-year-old Filipino-American.

The Hawaii teen made it to the top three in the popular Fox television talent contest in May. Filipinos, like Hawaiians, closely followed her performance and cheered her on.

Trias' commercials — endorsing a hamburger chain, a phone company and a clothes company — have been airing on local television. A giant billboard bearing her face is seen by hundreds of thousands of commuters on Manila's main avenue each day. Trias is set to do more endorsements and make the rounds of TV variety and talk shows during her visit, the Philippine Daily Inquirer quoted her as saying.

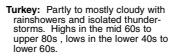
Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Destiny's Child



Trias



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Horoscope

The moon is void of course, which, along with other planetary influences, could have a numbing effect. We must guard against the inclination to sleepwalk. If you can remain conscious under these stars, you'll learn something valuable or at the very least prevent yourself from becoming inconvenienced by rather annoying details.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(October 9) Your wisdom expands this year, bringing your stress levels way down and allowing you to flow with what's going on around you. Big opportunities in the next three weeks include using your talent to obtain a new and more lucrative position. Education figures into the picture in January. Love with a Taurus or Cancer is passionate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Your winning ways make you first on the guest list. It's fun to know that your friends not only appreciate what you bring to the party but also admire you and wish everyone were a little more like you. Don't let it go to your head.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Your solid nature attracts people less grounded, but you're strong enough not to mind much if others lean on you. That said, you still need time alone, preferably in nature, when you're guaranteed not to be interrupted.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

If you allow things to go down without you or trust others to do errands for you, you'll most likely have to redo all that was done. This is one day when success really has more to do with showing up than anything else.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

The sky above you is vast, and the ground below you can be counted on for support. It's elemental facts like this that allow you to calm down and get back in touch with your purpose. Your well-being carries you through.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Relationships teach you what you're made of — the stuff of diplomats and peacemakers! All kinds of charac-

ters are trying to get along around you. Without you as the glue, many of these people wouldn't be in communication at all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

There are many new people to meet, and you'll be wondering whether or not you fit in. It doesn't matter either way, as it's all about being comfortable with what you have to offer. Fake what you don't know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

When others hold you up or put the kibosh on your plans altogether, see this as an opportunity to fly to the unexpected. Dip into your inner well of creativity. If you get stuck, call a Leo for advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

The luck of the draw favors you, so enter a raffle, buy a lottery ticket, or place your business cards in the fishbowl. Small outreach efforts produce big results when you've got what many people want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

There is an artist inside you longing for more recognition. Don't fall victim to the thinking that there's no time for frivolous activities such as exploring your talent. In fact, there's no time not to do such things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your charm is unstoppable. It's no wonder you clean up on the romantic front. Keep in mind that you're much more attractive while in motion, though. If there's a task you've been avoiding, procrastinate no more.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

It's hard to be leisurely when financial issues are on your mind. Money will flow in when you're hip to the latest and greatest ways to make it. Find a way to dabble (perhaps taking a class) before you make a full commitment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Breezy jaunts and easygoing getaways are featured. Don't wait for an invitation to take a drive — just get in the car and go! There's a simple fix for what ails a relationship. When you step away from the situation, you'll see this.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



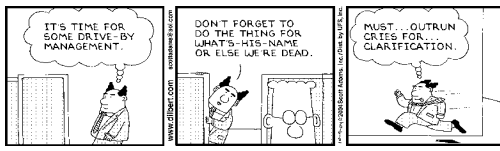
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



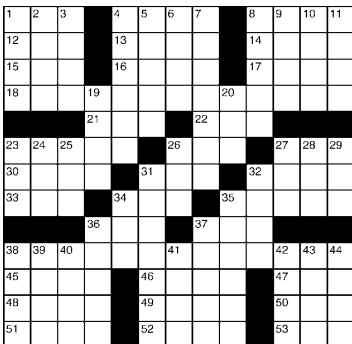
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Canine
- 4 Some are liberal
- 8 Spill the beans
- 12 "Hail, Caesar!"
- 13 Robbery take
- 14 Enrage
- 15 George Sr.'s weep
- 16 Competent
- 17 Many millennia
- 18 New York
- 21 Same old thing
- 22 Ph. bk. data
- 23 Perpendicular, at sea
- 26 Coop dweller
- 27 Serenaded the moon
- 30 Neutral color
- 31 Mongrel
- 32 Last several notes
- 33 Scull need
- 34 Bran source
- 35 Newsstand
- 36 "— Tonn"
- 37 Afternoon affair
- 38 "Maid in Heaven" actress
- 45 Met melody
- 46 Nays' cancelers
- 47 Commotion
- 48 Quant creation
- 49 Access Russo
- 50 Wrestling victory
- 51 Milwaukee product
- 52 Vortex
- 53 Corroded
- 2 Racetrack
- 3 Character builder
- 4 Call to arms, old-style
- 5 Man of steel?
- 6 Narrated
- 7 Less lenient
- 8 Puts one's feet in one's mouth
- 9 Stead
- 10 Shaving cream additive
- 11 Automaker Karl
- 19 The picture of health?
- 20 "And — the opposite shore..."
- 23 In olden times
- 24 Support system?
- 25 Corn spike
- 26 Shack
- 27 Halloween shout
- 28 Billboards
- 29 Tibetan beast
- 31 Commuter's cash-on-hand
- 32 "Arrive-derci"
- 34 Overseas agreement?
- 35 Actor Grammar
- 36 Where the elated walk
- 37 Pollster's find
- 38 Doorframe piece
- 39 Pennsylvania port
- 40 Feline-based musical
- 41 Kept surveillance on
- 42 One of the Three Bears
- 43 Tend texts
- 44 Region

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-9

CRYPTOQUIP

J D E B V Z R H L R Z O L E X
 T J B A V M X Z G J M S W L
 T D S S Z M K L H K L . Z S ' G
 V R I V X A D G W Z M K S W L
 L M O L R J A L

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE ORANGE GROWER IS FINALLY SEEKING NEW WORK. HE'S SO TIRED OF THE DAILY RIND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals O

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 2 p.m. - Baseball: AL Division Series, N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, Game 1.
AFN-Sports, 2 p.m. - College football: N.C. Tech at Wake Forest.
AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. - College football: "AFN Force Football with Fisher DeBerry" (d).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - Boxing: Ballroom Boxing, 10 rounds.
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - College football: N.C. Tech at Wake Forest.
AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m. - Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary, (d) or college football: Illinois at Michigan State.
AFN-Radio, 6 p.m. - College football: Minnesota at Michigan.
AFN-Radio, 6 p.m. - College football: Texas Tech at Oklahoma.
AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m. - College football: South Carolina at California, 9:30 p.m.
AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m. - Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary, (d) or college football: teams TBD.
AFN-Radio, 9:30 p.m. - College football: Tennessee at Georgia (in progress).
AFN-Radio, 10 p.m. - College football: Tennessee at Georgia (in progress).

Sunday

AFN-Pacific, 130 a.m. - Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary, or N.C. Tech at Wake Forest.
AFN-Radio, 130 a.m. - Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary, or college football: teams TBD.
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - College football: Lane's End Breeder's Futurity (d).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - College football: Wisconsin at Ohio St. (d).
AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. - Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary, (d) or college football: Nebraska at Texas Tech.
AFN-Radio, 1 p.m. - Auto racing: Bush Series Mt. Greer, 300 miles.
AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m. - Pro football: N.Y. Giants at New York Jets.
AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m. - Pro football: Cleveland Browns at Tampa Bay.
AFN-Radio, 7 p.m. - Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary, or college football: teams TBD.
AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. - Auto racing: Nextel Cup, 400 miles.
AFN-Radio, 10 p.m. - Pro football: St. Louis at Seattle.
AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. - Pro football: Buffalo at N.Y. Jets.
AFN-Radio, 10 p.m. - Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary, or pro football: Buffalo at N.Y. Jets.
 All times Central European Time; did indicate delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change without notice. For more information, visit www.afn.net.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
	W	L	Pct	PP	PA
New England	4	0	1.000	53	0
N.Y. Jets	3	0	1.000	82	0
Pittsburgh	3	0	1.000	53	0
Miami	0	4	0.000	32	63
Southwest					
Indianapolis	3	0	1.000	74	0
San Diego	3	0	1.000	82	0
Houston	2	1	0.667	90	81
Carolina	2	1	0.667	82	91
North					
Pittsburgh	2	0	1.000	75	78
Cleveland	2	0	1.000	59	62
Cincinnati	2	0	1.000	82	91
West					
Denver	3	0	1.000	75	57
Chicago	3	0	1.000	82	53
Oakland	2	0	1.000	82	53
Kansas City	2	0	1.000	82	53

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	PP	PA
Philadelphia	4	0	1.000	68	0
N.Y. Giants	3	0	1.000	75	78
Washington	3	0	1.000	82	53
South					
Atlanta	4	0	1.000	68	0
Carolina	3	0	1.000	82	53
Carolina	2	0	1.000	82	53
North					
Minnesota	3	0	1.000	68	7
Detroit	2	0	1.000	62	61
Green Bay	2	0	1.000	72	94
West					
Seattle	3	0	1.000	65	33
San Francisco	3	0	1.000	59	56
Arizona	2	0	1.000	68	109

Sunday's games

Atlanta at Atlanta
 N.Y. Giants at Atlanta
 Minnesota at Houston
 New England at New England
 Cleveland at Pittsburgh
 Buffalo at San Diego
 Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
 San Diego at San Diego
 St. Louis at Seattle
 Arizona at San Francisco
 Carolina at Denver
 Dallas at Washington
 Denver, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Chicago
Monday's game
 Tennessee at Green Bay
Sunday, Oct. 17
 Green Bay at Detroit
 Miami at Buffalo

Houston at Tennessee
 San Diego at Atlanta
 Washington at Chicago
 San Francisco at N.Y. Jets
 Seattle at New England
 Kansas City at Jacksonville
 Cincinnati at Cincinnati
 Carolina at Philadelphia
 Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh
 Minnesota at New Orleans
 Denver at Atlanta
 Tampa Bay at St. Louis
 Baltimore

Monday, Oct. 18

Indianapolis, Arizona, N.Y. Giants, Tampa Bay at St. Louis

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
	W	L	Pct	GA	FA
Y-Columbus	11	1	0.917	39	44
Y-MetroStars	11	1	0.917	39	44
O.C. United	9	2	0.818	39	40
New England	9	2	0.818	39	40
Chicago	8	3	0.727	41	42

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GA	FA
X-Kansas City	12	0	1.000	30	33
X-Los Angeles	10	0	1.000	30	33
X-Columbo	10	0	1.000	30	33
San Jose	9	1	0.909	30	33
Dallas	10	1	0.909	30	33

Y-cinched playoffs for victory, one point

Wednesday's game

Columbus 1, Chicago 0

Saturday's games

Columbus at MetroStars
 Kansas City at United States
 Dallas at San Jose

Sunday, Oct. 16

Chicago at New England
 San Jose at Dallas
 Los Angeles at Kansas City
 Columbus at Colorado

Sunday, Oct. 17

MetroStars at O.C. United
 End of regular season

Pro basketball

NBA preseason

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	0	0	0.000		
New Jersey	0	0	0.000		
New York	0	0	0.000		
Philadelphia	0	0	0.000		
Toronto	0	0	0.000		
Central Division					
Chicago	0	0	0.000		
Indiana	0	0	0.000		
Detroit	0	0	0.000		
Portland	0	0	0.000		
Milwaukee	0	0	0.000		
Southeast Division					
Atlanta	0	0	0.000		
Charlotte	0	0	0.000		
Miami	0	0	0.000		
Orlando	0	0	0.000		
Washington	0	0	0.000		

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	0	0	0.000		
LA Clippers	0	0	0.000		
LA Lakers	0	0	0.000		
Sacramento	0	0	0.000		
Southwest Division					
Dallas	0	0	0.000		
Houston	0	0	0.000		
Memphis	0	0	0.000		
New Orleans	0	0	0.000		
San Antonio	0	0	0.000		
Northwest Division					
Denver	0	0	0.000		
Minnesota	0	0	0.000		
Portland	0	0	0.000		
Seattle	0	0	0.000		
Sunday's games					
Miami at Houston					
Golden State at Sacramento					
Washington vs. Indiana at Manchester, N.H.					
Chicago vs. Boston at Manchester, N.H.					
Washington vs. Philadelphia at Durham, N.C.					
Seattle vs. LA Lakers at Anaheim, Calif.					

WNBA playoffs

CONFERENCE FINALS (best-of-three)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Connecticut 3, New York 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Connecticut 3, New York 1

WNBA playoffs

Connecticut 3, New York 1

WNBA playoffs

Connecticut 3, New York 1

WNBA playoffs

Connecticut 3, New York 1

WNBA playoffs

Connecticut 3, New York 1

WNBA playoffs

Connecticut 3, New York 1

WNBA playoffs

Connecticut 3, New York 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Seattle 2, Sacramento 1

CONFERENCE FINALS (best-of-three)

Seattle vs. Connecticut

Seattle at Connecticut

Friday, Oct. 12

Connecticut at Seattle

Saturday, Oct. 13

Connecticut at Seattle, if necessary

Tennis

Japan Open

Friday

AT&T Cup, 100,000 U.S. dollars

Purse: Men, \$100,000 (Tier II)

Surface: Hard-Indoor

Singles

Quarterfinals

Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, 6-4, 6-2

Saulius Grigas, Lithuania, 6-4, 6-2

Jiri Novak, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2

David Nalbandian, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2

Bojan Pantic, Germany, 6-4, 6-2

Taylor Dent, United States, 6-4, 6-2

End of regular season

Quarterfinals

Amelie Mauresmo, 1, France, 6-4, 6-2

Lleyton Hewitt, 2, Australia, 6-4, 6-2

David Nalbandian, 3, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2

Bojan Pantic, 4, Germany, 6-4, 6-2

Taylor Dent, 5, United States, 6-4, 6-2

End of regular season

Quarterfinals

Amelie Mauresmo, 1, France, 6-4, 6-2

Lleyton Hewitt, 2, Australia, 6-4, 6-2

David Nalbandian, 3, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2

Bojan Pantic, 4, Germany, 6-4, 6-2

Taylor Dent, 5, United States, 6-4, 6-2

End of regular season

Quarterfinals

Amelie Mauresmo, 1, France, 6-4, 6-2

Lleyton Hewitt, 2, Australia, 6-4, 6-2

David Nalbandian, 3, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2

Bojan Pantic, 4, Germany, 6-4, 6-2

Taylor Dent, 5, United States, 6-4, 6-2

End of regular season

Quarterfinals

Amelie Mauresmo, 1, France, 6-4, 6-2

Lleyton Hewitt, 2, Australia, 6-4, 6-2

David Nalbandian, 3, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2

Bojan Pantic, 4, Germany, 6-4, 6-2

Taylor Dent, 5, United States, 6-4, 6-2

End of regular season

Quarterfinals

Amelie Mauresmo, 1, France, 6-4, 6-2

Lleyton Hewitt, 2, Australia, 6-4, 6-2

David Nalbandian, 3, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2

Bojan Pantic, 4, Germany, 6-4, 6-2

Taylor Dent, 5, United States, 6-4, 6-2

End of regular season

Quarterfinals

Amelie Mauresmo, 1, France, 6-4, 6-2

Lleyton Hewitt, 2, Australia, 6-4, 6-2

David Nalbandian, 3, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2

Bojan Pantic, 4, Germany, 6-4, 6-2

Taylor Dent, 5, United States, 6-4, 6-2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Seattle 2, Sacramento 1

CONFERENCE FINALS (best-of-three)

Seattle vs. Connecticut

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David Nalbandian, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2

Bojan Pantic, Germany, 6-4, 6-2

Taylor Dent, United States, 6-4, 6-2

End of regular season

No. 10 Cavs win eighth straight

BY HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Guard Elton Brown and his Virginia teammates don't care that their national ranking and gaudy offensive numbers have been questioned.

The Cavaliers figure they've justified their No. 10 ranking by dominating all of their opponents, including a convincing 30-10 victory over Clemson on Thursday night.

When Brown looked across the line at Clemson's defenders in the second half, he saw a team about to give in. The Cavaliers did all they could to make the Tigers their fifth victim of the season.

"We saw they were getting tired," Brown said. "We just wanted to get out after it and just let it go. Coach put the ball in our hands and we responded."

The Cavaliers (5-0, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) ran the ball with ease in the second half, putting together three scoring drives and another to the 5-yard line. In the process, they made believers of the Tigers, who were dealt their fourth straight setback.

"They're a running team,"

Clemson quarterback Charlie Whitehurst said. "In the second half, we had a couple of three-and-outs and they drove it."

The Cavaliers play pretty good defense, too. After Clemson drove 80 yards in six plays, the first drive to take a 7-0 lead, the Tigers managed just 131 yards and seven first downs the rest of the way.

"When you drive it down like that in pretty convincing style, you're expecting you can do it again," Whitehurst said. "We didn't."

Alvin Pearson ran for 104 yards and scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to help Virginia seal its first 5-0 start since 1998.

"Whatever coach needs me to do, I'm willing to do so," said the senior, who also returns punts and plays wide receiver.

"Today, I just happened to be carrying the rock a little more and I'll take that."

Virginia won its eighth straight and has nine days to prepare for its toughest test yet — at No. 8 Florida State a week from Saturday.

The Cavaliers certainly looked ready against the Tigers.

Clemson (1-4, 1-3) drove easily downfield on its opening drive,



THE ROANOKE TIMES/AP

Virginia's Heath Miller dives into the end zone to score on a 3-yard pass in the second quarter against Clemson on Thursday.

using a 56-yard pass from Whitehurst to tight end Ben Hall to set up a 5-yard TD reception by Duane Coleman after just 3:11.

But all the Tigers added was a 45-yard field goal by Jap Dean on their third possession — capping a drive that covered only 16 yards.

Connor Hughes had field goals of 21, 43 and 50 yards, and the Cavaliers gained 239 yards on the ground, 225 through the air.

Heath Miller added a 5-yard touchdown catch to give Virginia a 13-10 halftime lead.

Playing without defensive end and captain Chris Canty for the first time after he had season-ending surgery, the Cavaliers looked just as dominant on defense as they had in blowout wins in their first four games.

Clemson rushed for just 45 yards on 21 carries.

"The players knew what the challenges were in front of them, and I thought they responded to those challenges," Virginia coach Al Groh said.

The Tigers also had no answer for Virginia's running game, getting a reprieve only when Walt Lundy fumbled after running for a first down at the Clemson 5 in the third quarter. Travis Fugh recovered for the Tigers.

Three plays later, the Tigers were forced to punt from their 22. Pearson took over at tailback and the Cavaliers put the game away.

Whitehurst finished 16-for-28 for 166 yards and threw his 11th interception of the season.

BCA prepares to grade minority hiring practices

BY MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Black Coaches Association executive director Floyd Keith knows some colleges won't like the grades he'll soon give them on their minority hiring practices.

He doesn't care. "I can't worry about that," Keith said Thursday. "... There will be some schools that are going to be mad at the BCA. There are some schools that got good grades."

Some colleges and universities did receive good grades on the BCA's first report card, which will be released Oct. 20, Keith

said. But no grades will be announced publicly until then.

The BCA has evaluated the hiring practices at 28 Division I-A and Division I-AA football programs and evaluated schools in five areas:

■ the percentage of minorities involved in the hiring process;

■ the number of minority candidates who received interviews;

■ the length of the search process;

■ whether the process followed the institution's affirmative action hiring policy;

■ and the schools' contacts with either Keith or the chair of the NCAA's Minority Opportunity and Interest Committee.

The interview category counts twice as much as the others.

Schools are then given a grade in each group and a final score is compiled. Those receiving 20-24 points get an A, 15-19 a B, 10-14 a C, 5-9 a D and below 5, an F.

The BCA asked each of the 28 schools that had job openings during the past year to complete a form that was analyzed by an outside firm. Any school not completing a form receives an F.

Keith said the BCA's goal is to have 20 percent of all new coaches be minority hires.

One school that may not be pleased is Nebraska, a school Keith criticized in January after the Cornhuskers selected Bill Cal-

lahan as its football coach. Keith questioned the university's hiring process in choosing Callahan, who had recently been fired by the Oakland Raiders, and is white.

Longtime Cornhuskers assistant Turner Gill, a former Nebraska player, was the only minority candidate known to be interviewed.

Last year, only one black head coach was hired — Sylvester Croom at Mississippi State. Croom is the first black head football coach in Southeastern Conference history.

There are five black coaches in Division I-A football: Croom, UCLA's Karl Dorrell, Notre Dame's Tyrone Willingham, San Jose State's Fitz Hill and New Mexico State's Tony Samuels.

Carter keeps South. Miss. undefeated

BY JOEY MCCREARY
The Associated Press

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Damien Carter came on in an emergency and saved Southern Mississippi's perfect start.

Carter, the Golden Eagles' backup quarterback, threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Otho Graves in overtime, giving Southern Mississippi a 35-29 victory over Houston on Thursday night.

It was just Carter's third pass of the season, and his only attempt of the game, but it helped Southern Miss win its fourth straight to start the season, the first time the Golden Eagles have done that since 1981. Southern Miss has won 12 straight in Conference USA play since 2002.

"Being the No. 2, you know you always only one play away," Carter said. "I try to go out there with the same poise and confidence that Dustin goes out there with and be a team leader."

Southern Miss (4-0, 3-0 C-USA), which blew a 14-point lead and trailed for most of the second half, forced overtime on starting quarterback Dustin Almon. Almon threw a 5-yard touchdown run with 1:22 remaining and Anthony Harris' game-tying 2-point conversion run.

Almond pulled a hamstring in his left leg on the TD run, forcing Carter into the game.

Southern Miss got the ball first in overtime and scored when Carter rolled right and hit Graves, who made a fingertip grab in the back of the end zone. Dustin McCaleb's extra-point was blocked.

"I don't know how I managed to get one leg in, but I made a big play," Graves said.

Houston then advanced to the Southern Miss 15 before faltering with two plays for negative yardage, a false-start penalty and two incompletions.

"I should have had some momentum entering the overtime [because] we got the blocked extra point," said Kendall Briles, Houston's backup quarterback-turned-multipurpose threat and the son of coach Art Briles.

Kolb was 19-for-36 for 345 yards and a touchdown for the Cougars (1-5, 1-2), who rallied from a 21-7 deficit and led 29-21 before Almond's touchdown run.

Rodgers hoping to star in Cal's showdown with rival USC

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — This time, Aaron Rodgers is determined to finish what he starts against top-ranked USC.

California's star quarterback was just six games removed from an upstate junior college last year when the Golden Bears engineered a triple-overtime upset of the Trojans. Rodgers started the game, but was replaced by Reggie Robertson after throwing a costly interception.

Rodgers was stuck on the sideline for the final minutes, including Tyler Frederick-

son's game-winning field goal. The result thrilled him, but his vantage point has gnawed at him for a year.

So when Rodgers is asked to describe his memories of the school's biggest victory in their three-year rivalry, he'll remember Jeff Tedford, he might be the only player on No. 7 California whose face doesn't light up.

"I have a little bitter taste in my mouth after last year, not being able to finish that game," Rodgers said. "It was a little disappointing for me. When that kick went through the uprights, it was one of the greatest feelings of my life — but still, I've got

some unfinished business with them, and I'm hoping to play one of my best games."

Rodgers gets what might be his final chance to face the Trojans (4-0, 1-0) on Saturday at the Coliseum, one of the most-anticipated Pac-10 matchups in recent years.

The Golden Bears (3-0, 1-0) were the last team to beat USC. Most feel they've got a better shot to knock off the defending national champions than anybody left on the Trojans' schedule.

And nobody at Cal seems more motivated to beat USC than Rodgers, who has grown from a relative nobody at Butte Jun-

ior College into a surefire NFL prospect in just two years under Tedford. If Rodgers skips his senior season to enter the draft, this could be the biggest game of his college career.

"You can see how much he wants to win this game," said receiver Chase Lyman, who already has caught five touchdowns passes this season. "We all want it, but this is the kind of game that can get you a lot of attention. Hopefully, everybody will be paying attention on Saturday."

Highly touted senior tight end victories this season, passing for just 614 yards and six touchdowns while Cal racked up 146 points.

Ravens experience life without J. Lewis

RB likely to be suspended by NFL for his guilty plea in federal court

The Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — The Baltimore Ravens learned what it's like to run their offense without its franchise RB Lewis.

It was only a practice session, and the team was certain that Lewis would be back in pads Friday and in the backfield Sunday night against the Washington Redskins.

But it probably won't be long before the Ravens are forced to play a game without their most potent offensive weapon.

Lewis spent Thursday in federal court in Atlanta, where he pleaded guilty to using a cell phone to facilitate a drug transaction. So his teammates began preparing for the Redskins without him.

"Obviously, Jamal is going to be a little bit behind with our base package," offensive coordinator Matt Cavanaugh said. "But he's a smart kid. He'll be back, he'll get the playbook, he'll get the film to watch from practice today, and he'll get caught up pretty quick. I'm not that worried about it."

Lewis, who ran for 2,066 yards a year ago, probably won't begin serving his prison sentence until the offseason. But he will almost certainly receive a suspension of at least two games from NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

"Jamal made a mistake when he was 20, over four years ago," Ravens president Dick Cuss said in a statement. "The Jamal we all

know would not make this mistake today. We will continue to support and believe in him for a period of time. He has admitted his mistake and is prepared to move on.

"We understand that Jamal is also subject to discipline by the NFL. We know that the commissioner will look thoroughly at all the circumstances surrounding Jamal's admission. We will accept whatever the commissioner decides."

Said Cavanaugh: "We'll see what the league decides, and if we don't have him for a period of time, then just like any other distraction, you've got to deal with it."

If that time comes, the Ravens will handle loss of Lewis in the same fashion they've treated the absence of wide receiver Travis Taylor (groin injury), center Mike Flynn (shoulder) and tight end Todd Heap (ankle).

"Look at what we've gone through already," said Casey Rabach, who took over for Flynn. "Travis Taylor down, Mike Flynn down, Todd Heap out. It's just another one to add to the pile. We've responded well."

"If he's here, great. If he's not, he's not," Rabach added.

"Obviously we're totally behind Jamal. We've got his back. But we'll run with what we've got."

That would be Chester Taylor and Musa Smith, both of whom moved up a notch on the depth chart for Thursday's season. Taylor has shown that he can be a ca-



Baltimore Ravens RB Jamal Lewis pleaded guilty Thursday to using a cell phone to violate federal law by trying to set up a drug transaction, and agreed to serve four months in prison. He likely will serve his sentence after the season.

pable NFL back during the second week of the season against Pittsburgh he gained 76 yards on only nine carries.

"He's a great back, and so is Musa," Ravens offensive tackle Orlan Brown said. "I think they can hold the job down until Jamal gets back. When one guy goes down, another guy has to pick it up."

Quarterback Kyle Boller usually spends his time on Sundays handing the ball to Lewis, but Thursday he turned around to see either Taylor or Smith in the backfield.

"It's different," said Boller, who didn't expect Lewis to be hindered by missing just one day of practice.

"You'd like him to be out there," Boller said, "but people miss practice all the time for different reasons. Whatever happens to Jamal, hopefully he'll be back soon. But we have three running backs I think any team would like to have as starters, and we're just going to have to make it work."

Panthers RB Davis expecting to play

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Carolina Panthers running back Stephen Davis said Thursday only a natural disaster would keep him from playing this weekend against the Denver Broncos.

When first questioned about his availability for Sunday's game, Davis grinned and said, "I won't know until Sunday." But when pushed on the topic and asked what would keep him from playing, Davis replied, "A hurricane. Maybe a tornado or something."

Even so, it's ultimately up to coach John Fox to decide whether to risk playing Davis this week or wait until next Sunday's game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Fox anticipates it will be a game-time decision.

Davis, who rushed for a career-high 1,444 yards last year for the Panthers, missed the last two games following knee surgery to repair torn cartilage. He practiced again Thursday, but remains questionable on the team's injury report.

Davis said he hasn't experienced any swelling in his knee this week. He originally was scheduled to miss two to five weeks, so he's right on schedule for Friday's game against the Rams, who missed three weeks since he had surgery.

DeShaun Foster has started the last two games for the Panthers, running for 225 yards and two touchdowns on 51 carries. However, Foster has been slow to hit some holes, resulting in 17 runs of no gain or negative yardage during the last two weeks.

Vikings WR Moss probable

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.

Randy Moss left the Minnesota Vikings practice Thursday afternoon with a sore right ankle, but the All-Pro wide receiver isn't expected to miss any action Sunday at Houston.

NFL Briefs

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, following by team's prognosis. (See Follow-up for complete list of injuries provided by the league.)
Atlanta Running back Jamal Lewis (guilty plea Thursday) is questionable.
Carolina RB Stephen Davis (knee) will miss Sunday's game at New York Jets.
Left guard Zach Miller (top left) is questionable.
Atlanta Backup linebacker Wes Malard (sprained knee) is questionable.
Bills Center Vyn Trahan (left knee injury) will miss Sunday's game at New York Jets.

Moss, who leads the team with 19 catches for 215 yards and five touchdowns in three games, originally tweaked his ankle during player introductions before Minnesota's opener Sept. 12 against Dallas. The injury has slowed him periodically for nearly a month.

When Moss began limping during a two-minute drill in practice Thursday afternoon, Vikings coach Mike Tice sent him to the sidelines.

"We pulled him out from the last period, so by league rules I have to add him to (the injury report)," Tice said. "There's absolutely no chance that he won't play (against Houston)."

Broncos' Griffin questionable

DENVER — Denver Broncos running back Clinton Griffin missed his second straight practice Thursday because of a sprained ankle.

Cochi Mike Shanahan said Griffin's status for Sunday's game against Carolina will be determined after Friday's practice.

"If he can't go full speed and it doesn't look good, then obviously, he won't go during the game," Shanahan said.

Favre family dealing with tragedy again

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — For the second time in less than a year, Brett Favre is dealing with a death in the family.

Favre's brother-in-law died after crashing an all-terrain vehicle on the player's property in Sumner, Miss., Wednesday night. Casey Tynes, 24, the brother of Favre's wife, Deanna, was riding the ATV without a helmet when it flipped, Lamar County Sheriff Danny Rigel said.

Favre, recovering from a mild concussion, practiced Thursday for the first time this week, "but he just wasn't himself," offensive coordinator Tom Rossley said. "It's been a tough week for him."

Last December, Favre's father, Irv, died of a heart attack just before Christmas. Twenty-four hours later, Favre threw for 399 yards and four touchdowns in a crucial 41-7 victory at Oakland.

"When something like this happens, everyone comes together,"

receiver Donald Driver said. "We have to get behind him again."

The Packers face Tennessee on Monday night in a matchup of spirited teams with 1-3 records.

Favre hasn't missed a start since becoming the Packers' starter more than 12 years ago. Counting playoffs, he's started 212 consecutive games. It's the longest streak for a quarterback in NFL history.

Funeral arrangements are pending, but the Packers said Favre might miss practice Saturday and possibly the walkthrough on Sunday to fly to Mississippi.

Favre is dealing with the losses of his Pro Bowl center, Mike Flanagan, who underwent knee surgery Thursday that he hopes can salvage his career, and backup QB Doug Pederson, who went on injured reserve Tuesday with a broken rib and a torn muscle and broken bone in his back.

Craig Lang was elevated to the No. 2 quarterback and will fill in

for Favre during his absence this weekend.

The team is also trying to solidify Favre's protection, and it's not an easy task without Flanagan, whose replacement, Greg Ruenkel, had a distressing debut Sunday in the Packers' loss to the New York Giants.

He went the wrong way on a running play on his fourth snap, resulting in a 4-yard loss for Ahman Green, committed two penalties for 25 yards and, most disturbing of all, allowed defensive tackle William Joseph to put his hit on Favre that knocked him out of the game.

"It's going to take him a little bit of time to blend in and feel comfortable," Rossley said. "Maybe he was a little nervous. I don't know."

Ruegamer refused to look back on his poor performance.

"Well, I wasn't happy with the way it went, but that was Sunday. We're on to the Titans," Ruegamer said. "I'm not going to dwell on last week. I think everybody knows what happened."



NFL Challenge

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Dale Earnhardt Jr. (8) tries to catch up with Kurt Busch at New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon, N.H., on Sept. 19. Docking points from Junior for cursing in Victory Lane last week at Talladega had severe implications: He dropped from first to second in the driver standings, giving up the top spot in the race for the Nextel Cup title to Busch.

Busch looking to build Nextel lead

Driver holds 12 point edge over Junior heading to Kansas Speedway

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Kurt Busch is making no apologies for being in the lead of NASCAR's championship chase.

Busch is 12 points ahead of Dale Earnhardt Jr. in the Nextel Cup standings entering Sunday's Banquet 400 at Kansas Speedway.

A lot of the focus this week has been on the 25-point penalty handed to Earnhardt for his now-famous slip of the tongue last Sunday at Talladega. But Busch has helped himself tremendously by being the only contender to finish in the top five in each of the first three races of the 10-race title showdown.

"It's something that you don't focus on, but yet you do have it in the back of your mind that you've done the best job in these three races so far," Busch said. "It really is a feather in the crew's hat and the team can feel the different intensity of being the points leader. But it can go away just that quick."

As for Earnhardt's penalty for using an expletive during a live post-race victory interview, Busch said, "It's unfortunate. Hopefully, these 25 points won't come into the final factor because we want to beat him on the racetrack."

Earnhardt's team plans to appeal the points penalty, but no hearing date has been set. Meanwhile, the Chase for the Nextel Cup goes on with seven races left.

"It's just a matter of putting 10 races together and we're poised to do that with the tests that we've saved up and the luck that we've had recently," Busch said. "And just being able to be competitive is the biggest key — to be able to run eighth place at all of these races."

"If you've got a chance to win, do it. If you slide out of the top 10 (in a race), you've got to finish as close to that top 10 as you can."

Earnhardt, who has top-10 finishes in each of the first three races of the championship chase, has much the same philosophy.

"We've been really testing hard at some places that have given us

some trouble, and Kansas is one of them," said Earnhardt, 33rd, sixth and 18th on the 1½-mile oval. "We tested there last week and it went really well, and I was happy with the car."

"Matt (Kenseth) was there and a bunch of other guys. Nobody said their car was really handling great. We were all kind of struggling with the same things. The cars didn't seem to want to turn, or they were too loose. But we were happy at the end of two days."

As for trailing Busch at this point, Earnhardt insists there's a lot of racing left.

"It's still anybody's race," he said.

Four-time champion Jeff Gordon was leading Busch by one point before a late-race fade left him 19th at Talladega and third in the standings, 48 points behind the leader and 50 ahead of fourth-place Mark Martin.

Everyone else in NASCAR's new format has had at least one bad race in the first three and needs some bad runs from the top five to get back into contention.

Kenseth, the reigning series champion, is 137 points behind Busch. Tenth-place Jeremy Mayfield is almost locked out already, 267 back. In between are Tony Stewart, defending race winner Ryan Newman, Elliott Sadler and Jimmie Johnson.

Newman isn't ready to give up with more than halfway to go in the title chase.

"We're still in the thick of things, pointswise," he said. "This team has really clicked when counted. We know that a couple more wins would catapult us to the top, so that's what we're hoping for right now. If we just keep concentrating on winning some of these last seven races, the points will take care of themselves."

Busch figures the Kansas race could signal what will happen the rest of the way, with four of the final seven events on 1½-mile tracks.

"We've got Kansas, Charlotte, Atlanta and, of course, Miami (Homestead), so that's where you have to be the most competitive," Busch said. "I believe Kansas and Charlotte (Oct. 16) are going to set the tone for this championship."

Groups say shield Kobe accuser

The Associated Press

DENVER — Advocacy groups urged the media on Thursday to refrain from identifying the woman accusing Kobe Bryant of rape while she pursues her civil lawsuit against the NBA star, despite a court ruling that will lift her anonymity.

The woman's attorneys had asked U.S. District Judge Rich-

ard Matsch to allow her to be known only as Jane Doe in court documents and during hearings.

The judge rejected the request late Wednesday, saying it would be unfair to Bryant and that her privacy has already been invaded to the extent that granting her anonymity would have little effect.

The woman's name has been on the Internet for months, in part because of mistakes by courthouse staff in posting case filings. Tabloid newspapers have published her name and photos, and she was repeatedly identified in a nationally syndicated talk-radio show.

"The main thing they were concerned about is that we could [her name being used in] the court documents, as we're hoping this doesn't open the door for the mainstream media outlets to print her name," said Cynthia Stone, spokeswoman for the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault. "Most people out there do not know her name. You actually have to look for it, and most people aren't going to actively look for her name."

The woman's attorneys said the ruling was not a surprise. They also said they had no intention of dropping the suit, which seeks unspecified damages.

Lakers' Grant misses practice

SAN DIEGO — Forward Brian Grant, part of an offseason trade with the Miami Heat, was withheld from practice as a precaution by the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday because of a sore neck re-aggravated in training camp.

Grant, a veteran status day-to-day, originally hurt his neck during summer conditioning. X-rays of the latest ailment were negative.

Miffed Kidd skipping Nets' night practices for knee rehab

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jason Kidd is refusing to attend night sessions during the New Jersey Nets' two-a-day practices at training camp, and he doesn't care if the team fines him for it.

"They want me to be here — they have every right — but my best thing is to try to get healthy, rehab and push forward. That's my stance," said Kidd, who had knee surgery over the summer and is at least three weeks away from practicing. "Me sitting here for three hours is not helping me rehab."

Kidd ended a long public silence and

made his displeasure with the Nets clear this week after an offseason that included the cost-cutting trades of Kenyon Martin and Kerry Kittles. Kidd and Altonzo Mourning said the Nets have no chance of winning a championship.

Coach Lawrence Frank wouldn't discuss Kidd's skipping night sessions, even clarify whether Kidd's absences were excused or unexcused. Team president Rod Thorn did not return a telephone call seeking comment.

Kidd said the team had not informed him or his agent that he would be fined.

Under the collective bargaining agreement, players can be penalized \$2,500 for

each of the first two practices they miss and \$5,000 for each absence after that.

The Nets held only one practice Thursday, but another two-a-day was scheduled for Friday — and Kidd was adamant he wouldn't attend the night session. New Jersey is holding training camp at its regular practice facility, and most Nets players are staying at their own homes.

Kidd said he is rehabilitating his knee seven days a week and plans to consult with his doctors again in three weeks to determine whether he'll be cleared for more strenuous activity.

In Kidd's operation, small holes were drilled in his left knee to form scar tissue

that replaces cartilage.

In Kidd's absence, veterans Travis Best and Jacque Vaughn and second-year guard Zoran Planinic are vying for the starting job at point guard.

"Is it hard? Yeah, because this is my job," Kidd said before throwing in a dig at management for breaking up a team that won two of the last three Eastern Conference titles.

Kidd expected the Nets to remain a contender when he spurned a free-agent offer from San Antonio in 2003 and re-signed with New Jersey for six years. But now he's a member of a diminished team that dealt away its two best defenders and fast-break finishers.

Davenport remains in running for No. 1

The Associated Press

FILDERSTADT, Germany — Amelia Mauresmo and Lindsay Davenport took their battle for the No. 1 ranking and Porsche Grand Prix title into the semifinals with straight-set victories on Friday.

Top-seeded Mauresmo overpowered Lisa Raymond of the United States 6-4, 6-1, and world No. 2 Davenport struggled with her first serve but shipped past qualifier Jelena Jankovic of Serbia-Montenegro 6-4, 6-3.

"She hit the ball hard and I was a little off with my shots," Davenport said. "My serve didn't help." Davenport will reclaim the No. 1 ranking if she wins her season-high seventh title and Mauresmo loses her semifinal on Saturday in the Four of the world's top five ranked players have reached the semifinals.

Mauresmo faces world No. 5 and U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, who rolled past Colombian Fabiola Zuluaga 6-4, 6-1, while Davenport plays No. 4 and French Open winner Anastasia Myskina, who beat Russian countrywoman Elena Likhtovseva 4-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Mauresmo blasted eight aces and overpowered Raymond with hard shots as she took a big step to retaining the top ranking she earned on Sept. 13. A loss would likely have dropped her to No. 2.

Sharapova, Hewitt advance in Japan Open

TOKYO — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova beat Tamarine Tanasugarn 6-2, 6-3 Friday and played for the Japan Open title against Mashona Washington.

Sports briefs

ton of the United States. Washington defeated seventh-seeded Klara Koukalova of the Czech Republic 3-6, 7-5, 6-2 in the other semifinal.

Among the men, top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt stopped ninth-seeded Cyril Saulnier of France 7-5, 6-1 to reach the semis.

The Australian will next face fifth-seeded Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, who defeated fourth-seeded Jaroslav Strydom of Thailand 6-4, 6-4.

Bodhan Ullrich of the Czech Republic eliminated Bjorn Pham of Germany 7-5, 6-4 and will face Taylor Dent of the United States in the other semifinal. Dent, seeded seventh, won 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 against Gilles Muller of Luxembourg.

U.S. cyclist who failed doping test signs endorsement deal

NEW YORK — U.S. cyclist Tyler Hamilton signed a multi-year deal to endorse a line of musculoskeletal stimulation products, even while facing a two-year ban from racing because he failed a doping test.

Complex Technologies, a New Brighton, Minn.-based company specializing in products designed for pain relief and muscle rehabilitation, said Hamilton has been using its products regularly since this spring.

Hamilton faces a possible ban because of a positive blood test at the Spanish Vuelta race two weeks after the Olympics. His Phoenix team said both samples he provided there showed evi-



Maria Sharapova of Russia makes a forehand return against Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn during their semifinal match in the Japan Open in Tokyo on Friday. Sharapova won 6-2, 6-3.

dence he had received an endurance-boosting blood transfusion.

Hamilton also had a preliminary positive test at the Athens Games, but the IOC dropped its probe because the cyclist's backpack specimen mistakenly was frozen and there weren't enough red blood cells left to analyze. That meant Hamilton was able to keep his Olympic gold medal.

Four Olympic horses test positive

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Four horses competing in the Athens Olympics tested positive for banned substances.

The International Equestrian Federation on Friday did not release the names of the horses whose initial samples were positive. Those responsible for the failed tests have been contacted through their national equestrian federations.

Howell shoots 65, leads in hihinks

The Associated Press

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Englishman David Howell capped his round with an eagle Friday to take a one-stroke lead over compatriot Ryder Cup teammate Luke Donald after two rounds of the Dunhill Links Championship.

Howell and Donald each shot 7-under 65 on the Old Course.

Golf roundup

Howell's successful 65 was capped by an eagle-2 on a 105-yard sand wedge into the 18th hole. Donald was a stroke behind at 13-under 131.

"Maybe I am walking half an inch taller now," Howell said. Donald had just one bogey in his round to go with eight birdies.

He holed four putts of between 10 feet and 25 feet. Louis Oosthuizen of South Africa held third place at 12 under after a 65 on the Old Course.

In a tournament played on three courses, first-round leader Graeme McDowell followed his record-tying 62 on the Old Course with a 72 at Carnoustie. His six birdies were canceled out by two double bogeys and two bogeys.

McDowell held a share of fourth place on 134 with Jamie Donaldson of Wales, who shot 65 on the Old Course, and Richard Sterne of South Africa, who had a 68 at Carnoustie.

Vijay Singh, ranked No. 1 in the world, carded a 70 on the Old Course and shared 21st place. Ernie Els, who went past Tiger Woods into second place on the world rankings with his victory in

the American Express Championship in Ireland last Sunday, shot a second successive 68 for a share of 11th place.

Seven share lead in Vegas

LAS VEGAS — Harrison Frazar shot a bogey-free 64 to take his place among a crowded group at the top of the leader board with an 8 under in the Michelin Championship at Las Vegas.

Seven players shared the lead on a day when perfect playing conditions and a lack of wind made the three courses used in the tournament easy targets.

Two of those players, Danny Ellis and Jason Bohm, shot 65, but their scores were on the par-71 TPC Canyons course while the others played the par-72 TPC Summerlin and Bear's Best layouts. Also tied 8 under were Scott Verplank, Kent Jones, Steve Lowery and Billy Mayfair.

Park ranks 3 LPGA leaders

NORTH AUGUSTA, S.C. — Grace Park had four straight birdies on the back nine in a 6-under 66 that put her a tie for the lead with Kim Sako and Silvia Cavalleri after the opening round of the LPGA Asahi Ryokuen International Championship.

Park was 4 under par after just six holes in the LPGA's final full-field event of the year. She was even sharper during a 10-hole stretch in which she made strong approach shots for the birdie run that started on No. 12.

When Park gave back a stroke on 17, she recovered with a slithering 4-foot, 4-inch birdie on the closing dogleg.

Typhoon forces F1 to postpone qualifying

By Salvatore Zanca

The Associated Press

SUZUKA, Japan — A typhoon forced organizers to abandon the regular qualifying format for the Japanese Grand Prix.

Qualifying will now be held before Sunday's race, the first time Saturday qualifying has been canceled for a Formula One event.

Typical Ma-on, meaning horse saddle in Cantonese, was near Japan's southern island of Okinawa on Friday evening, packing winds up to 112 mph. It is expected to dump as much as 16 inches of rain in central Japan — where Suzuka is located — on Saturday morning, the Meteorological Agency said.

After Friday's practice in steady and heavy rain, race organizers and the International Automobile Federation shifted both practice and qualifying to Sunday morning. The race will be held in the afternoon.

It's a very unusual situation, "seven-time world champ-

on Michael Schumacher said. "Luckily, for most of the teams and drivers, the championship is decided already."

FIA also said that race stewards have canceled all sessions scheduled to take place Saturday. The public will not be allowed at the track.

In Friday's practice, more than half the 25 cars had some kind of sliding problems or went off the track. Schumacher was fastest in both sessions at 3:06.04. Suzuka Circuit with teams running only limited laps. He did just five laps, his best being 1 minute, 47.96 seconds in the morning. In the afternoon, with rain getting harder, he was timed in 1:45.388.

The German said he wasn't prepared to drive in a typhoon. "One of us has to have the presence in that situation," he said.

Toward the end of the second session, conditions were already undesirable. Second in both the sessions was Giancarlo Fisichella in a Sauber. He recorded 1:48.362 early, then improved to 1:46.102.

Swimmer Thompson to retire

Most decorated United States Olympian to pursue career in medicine

By Beth Harris

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Jenny Thompson is ready to trade in the pool for a career in medicine.

The 31-year-old swimmer, who owns an American-best career total of 12 Olympic medals, will retire after the World Short Course Championships in the same city where her international career began in 1987.

Thompson quit once before, after the 2000 Olympics. This time, she means it.

"Time has just flown by," she said. "I think about it and I'm like, 'Wow, 10 years ago I was doing the same thing and maybe I should do something else for a change.' I keep on telling my friends, 'I need a new hobby.'"

In 1987, Thompson was a 14-year-old competing in the Pan American Games, winning two golds and a bronze. Katie Hoff hadn't been born; Hoff, now 15, was a teammate of Thompson's in Athens and is swimming in this week's meet.

"She reminded me a lot of myself when I was at my very first in-

ternational meet," Thompson said.

She attributes her longevity to a genuine love of putting her face in chlorinated water every day and a passion for racing. "The keys for me were always to keep things fresh, mixing up workouts or traveling and working out with other teams overseas or just being open to new ideas," she said. "Enjoying the people and the travel more than the accomplishment or the medal or the record."

Thompson's coach, John Collins, is here as much for Thompson as he is to be an assistant with the U.S. men's team. Her first race is the 50 fly preliminaries Friday.

"I'm going to approach this meet like I would any other meet where I want to do my best," she said. "I like training long course and like racing short course because it's just more intense, especially in this venue."

Thompson settled for two silvers in her four Olympics in Athens. She never won an individual gold during her career but earned eight medals in relays. Her 12 Olympic and 14 world

championships medals are more than any swimmer in history.

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"I'm hoping that she'll just take it as a meet and maybe at the end of the meet be a little bit more reflective," he said. "She's got some really tough back-to-back swims, almost bordering on too tough."

Thompson has to return to medical school at Columbia University next Tuesday, the day after the meet ends.

"I'm ready," she said. "I never felt this ready to move on."

Other end of lineup shines for Cardinals

'Big 3' stymied, so bottom three pick up slack as St. Louis wins

By R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Los Angeles Dodgers handled St. Louis' trio of MVP candidates. It's the bottom of the Cardinals' order that gave them fits.

Mike Matheny, Edgar Renteria and Reggie Sanders combined to go 8-for-10 with five RBIs and five runs scored, helping the Cardinals win without the long ball Thursday night.

After tying a postseason record with five home runs in the NL playoff series opener, St. Louis used eight singles, two doubles and a triple to produce the same outcome in Game 2, an 8-3 victory over the Dodgers.

"The big three has been the catalyst for us all year, and they're definitely the reason we are where we are," Sanders said. "But this is a collective effort. It's everybody."

Following a sweep at Busch Stadium, the Cardinals head to Dodger Stadium with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series. Matt Morris will try to wrap it up against Jose Lima in Game 3 on Saturday night.

"These guys aren't here because it's a fluke," St. Louis' Larry Walker said of the Dodgers. "They're not going to just roll over. They're going to battle, so that's what we've got to do."

Albert Pujols, Scott Rolen and Jim Edmonds, who each had 100 at-bats, were combined 1-for-11 in Game 2. The closest the Cardinals came to a home run was Tony Womack's triple off the base of the wall in the second and



Los Angeles Dodgers reliever Giovanni Carrara grimaces after a loop off the bat of St. Louis' Mike Matheny, right, for a hit in the seventh inning of Thursday night's NL playoff series game. Matheny's hit drove in the final two runs in St. Louis' 8-3 victory, giving the Cardinals a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

a drive to the wall in left-center by winning pitcher Dan Haren in the pivotal three-run fifth that put the Cardinals ahead 6-3.

"That's all I've got," Haren said. "I'll settle for the win."

Seven of the eight St. Louis runs scored with two outs as the Cardinals chased Jeff Weaver in the fifth. The Cardinals have gone 7-for-15 with two outs in each of the first two games.

"One of the things that's important is that two-out hits will usually win ballgames," Sanders said. "This team battles and battles and battles and doesn't give a pitcher a chance to be at ease."

Despite homers by Milton Bradley, Shawn Green and Jayson Werth, the Dodgers lost their eighth straight playoff game and remained winless in the postseason since beating Oakland in the 1988 World Series. Los Angeles dropped to 0-5 at St. Louis this year.

"It's a formidable task for us, obviously," manager Jim Tracy said. "But I'm not going to sit here and say it can't be done."

Matheny, the No. 8 hitter, is the first Cardinals player to get four RBIs in a division series game after two-run singles in the fifth

and seventh. A 239 career hitter, he's 15-for-39 (.385) during an 11-game postseason hitting streak.

Renteria, batting sixth, was 3-for-4. His two-out, go-ahead single was the key blow in the fifth. Sanders was 3-for-3 and scored twice while batting seventh.

The Cardinals won despite a shaky outing by 15-game winner Jason Marquis, making his first career postseason start. He couldn't hold a 3-1 second-inning lead, allowing homers to Werth in the first and to Green and Bradley in consecutive at-bats to start the fourth.

The homer by Bradley, the Dodgers' troubled right fielder who had a run-in with a Los Angeles reporter on the off-day Wednesday, was a drive, estimated at 461 feet, that ricocheted off the right-field scoreboard.

Marquis lasted only 3 1/3 innings — his shortest outing of the year — and allowed three homers for the second time this season.

Both came against the Dodgers. "He's been outstanding," manager Tony La Russa said. "But he was struggling."

Five relievers kept the Dodgers off the scoreboard the rest of the way. Haren, who worked two scoreless innings, is projected to be in the rotation next year with Morris and Game 1 starter Woody Williams eligible for free agency.

The Dodgers' best chance to break the game open came in the fourth after Cal Eldred walked Cesar Izuris and Werth with two outs to load the bases and then went to a 3-0 count against Steve Finley before retiring him on a fly to center.

Weaver made his first career postseason start and endured his second straight shaky postseason outing, giving up six runs on eight hits in 4 1/3 innings. Last year, he was with the New York Yankees and surrendered a 12th-inning, game-winning homer to Alex Gonzalez of the Florida Marlins in the pivotal Game 4 of the World Series.

Weaver worked around two walks in the first by striking out Edmonds for the final out. He had another shaky inning in the second and an RBI on a sacrifice bunt, but with the first run scoring on Weaver's wild pickoff throw to first.

With two outs, Tony Womack hit an RBI triple off the right-field wall and Larry Walker followed with a run-scoring double just inside the first-base line for a 3-1 lead.

MLB: Let Bradley, reporter settle 'Uncle Tom' issue

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Milton Bradley was back in the Los Angeles Dodgers' lineup Thursday, a day after his clubhouse confrontation between the outfielder and a reporter he called an "Uncle Tom."

Rich Levin, a spokesman for the commissioner's office, said major league baseball officials had made several telephone calls on the matter. Levin said there wouldn't be an investigation.

"We're satisfied the two sides are working together to resolve the situation," Levin said from New York.

Several fans booed Bradley in each of his four plate appearances Tuesday, when the Cardinals beat the Dodgers 8-3 in the opener of the best-of-5 NL playoff series. It was Bradley's first game following a five-day suspension assessed for a bottle-throwing tantrum during a victory over Colorado in Los Angeles.



Jason Reid of the Los Angeles Times asked Bradley on Wednesday about his treatment by St. Louis fans.

Bill Dwyre, the Times' sports editor, said several reporters in the Dodgers' clubhouse Wednesday said Bradley didn't like Reid's question. According to eyewitnesses and Reid's tape, Bradley said, "You're an Uncle Tom. You're a sellout."

Reid, who is black, took offense and began yelling at Bradley, who also is black, Dwyre said.

"We're terribly unhappy on how and why this happened," Dwyre said in a statement. "We back our reporter from every angle of this. We also agree with the Dodgers in the sense that this is something that can and will be worked out between these two people."

Bradley declined interview requests after Thursday's game, and Reid declined to answer questions. But Bradley, speaking to Los Angeles' KCBS-TV on Wednesday, claimed Reid kept pushing the issue.

"He was just one of those guys who wants to keep harping on it," Bradley said. "I told him what I felt about the situation and I told him how I felt about how he was choosing to handle it."

Bradley said Reid "took offense to that and ... started getting physical with me" before being restrained as he was walking away "to leave the situation alone."

Lon Rosen, the Dodgers' executive vice president and chief marketing officer, said that "ultimately this is an issue that needs to be settled between the two individuals, and we will work with them toward that end."

tence of Dodgers spokesman John Olgun, ESPN reporter Brent Stover said.

"What he said is, 'That tape is not going to leave the locker room. I'm going to watch you re-watch it and I'm going to watch you record over it,'" Stover said.

Stover described the situation as threatening and intense, with several Dodgers players milling around. Complaining with the request, he said, "It felt like it was the best thing to do." Stover said he was concerned his media credentials might be revoked.

Olgun said Thursday that he asked the tape to be erased because the camera was panning the clubhouse as naked players were emerging from the shower. He said the request had nothing to do with the confrontation between Bradley and Reid.

Mariners' VP retiring

SEATTLE — Roger Jongewaard, vice president and

special assistant to the general manager, is retiring after 19 years with the Seattle Mariners.

Jongewaard joined the Mariners in 1985 as scouting director. He was vice president of scouting and player development from 1989-2003, and was part of drafting or acquiring Ken Griffey Jr., Alex Rodriguez, Bret Boone, Mike Hampton, Jason Varitek and David Ortiz.

The Mariners also named former general manager Woody Woodward, who's done special assignments for the team for five years, will not return next year.

Padres cut four

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Padres released right-handed reliever Jay Witasick (0-1) on Thursday and outrighted outfielder Kerry Robinson (293) and righties Steve Watkins (0-0) and Rick Vanden Kerkhof (1-1) to Portland of the Pacific Coast League.

The moves reduced San Diego's 40-man roster to 36.

SPORTS

Houston starter Roy Oswalt, the NL's lone 20-game winner this year, gave up only one run in 6 2/3 innings on Thursday.

AP



Furcal's homer in the 11th ties series vs. Astros

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Rafael Furcal can escape his troubles when he's at the ballpark.

It's the one place where he doesn't think about what awaits him at the end of the postseason.

"I forget everything except the field, put a lot of concentration on the game," the Atlanta Braves shortstop said. "Then, after the game, when I go to my house, I think of all my problems."

Set to report to jail when Atlanta's season ends, Furcal is trying to keep it going as long as possible. His two-out, two-run homer in the 11th inning gave the Braves a 4-2 win over the Houston Astros on Thursday, evening their NL playoff series 1-1.

"It was awesome," teammate Adam LaRoche said. "For as much pressure as has been put on him, knowing what's going to happen to him after we're done. I don't know how he's able to do it."

Furcal was in court just hours before Game 1, being sentenced to 21 days in jail for violating probation with his second drunken-driving arrest in four years.

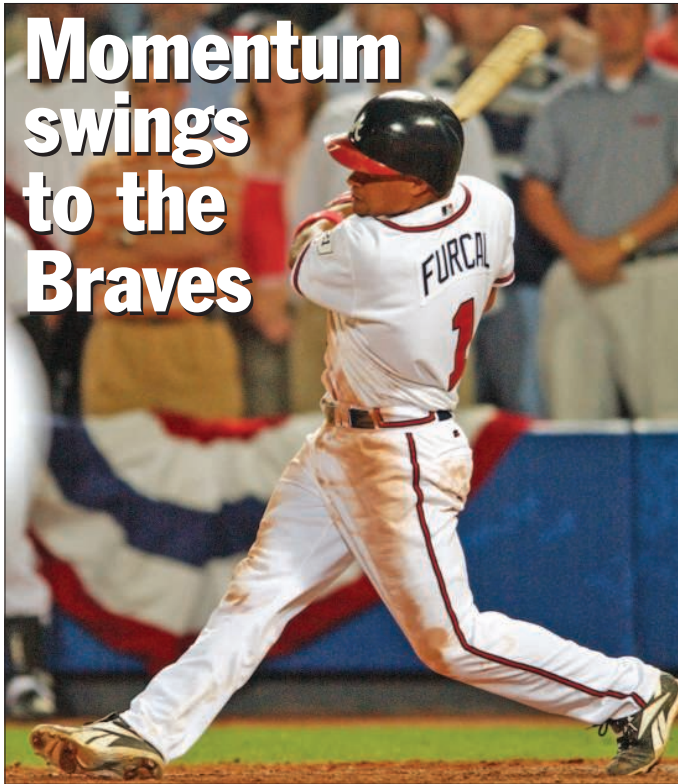
His sentence was put off until the day after the Braves' season ends. Furcal, who had three hits and three RBIs, ensured that it won't finish with Saturday's Game 3 in Houston.

The Astros were on the verge of controlling the series when manager Phil Garner went to closer Brad Lidge in the seventh.

During his longest outing of the year, he gave up the tying run to force extra innings. "I'm just upset at myself for not getting the job done," said Lidge, who pitched 2 2/3 innings. "You can't think about how long you're going to be out there."

Both teams went to extraordinary means — the Astros looking to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series, the Braves realizing they needed a split before playing twice in Houston, where the Astros have won 18 straight games.

Momentum swings to the Braves



AP

Rafael Furcal hits a two-run homer — his first career playoff home run — that won Game 2. The series moves to Houston on Saturday.

Braves rookie Charles Thomas singled with one out in the 11th off Dan Miceli and stole second.

After pinch-hitter Eli Marrero popped out to the catcher, Furcal golfed a 1-2 splitter deep into the right-field seats, flipping his bat in the air about halfway down the

line to celebrate his first postseason homer.

The Astros, who have never won a post-season series, routed the Braves 9-3 in Game 1 and were ahead 2-0 going to the seventh inning with 20-game winner Roy Oswalt on the mound.

But Atlanta, NL East champion for an unprecedented 13 straight seasons, fought back, managing to overcome some shaky baserunning — two were thrown out at the plate — and plenty of other wasted chances before Furcal came through.

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After a slow start, 10th-ranked Virginia runs over Clemson

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Big tests for Nos. 1 and 2 Page 26



Bottom of Cardinals' order bashes Dodgers, lifts St. Louis to 2-0 lead

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